

MIDDLE EAST AND SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

18 FEBRUARY 1982

Syria

Security Situation -- Citing eyewitnesses, AFP reported that clashes continued between security forces and rebels in Hamah and that tanks and artillery still surrounded the city, which was covered by a heavy pall of smoke from fires and explosions. AFP added that observers in Beirut estimated that the pockets of resistance were weakening and that they would soon be wiped out. AFP also said that, according to eyewitnesses, the violence in Hamah, which began on 2 February, was sparked off when Muslim Brotherhood militants killed a score of local Ba'th Party officials and dragged their bodies through the streets.

Citing information from an unspecified Arab capital, Voice of Lebanon radio reported that about 5,000 men have defected from the Syrian Army during the last week and that an organization, which the radio did not name, has supplied the Muslim Brotherhood with heavy weapons. According to another Voice of Lebanon report, about 2,000 men of the Syrian Arab Deterrent Forces have broken away from their command and joined the Muslim Brotherhood and Fatah. The radio said special Syrian Army units have been posted on the Syrian-Lebanese border to catch smuggled weapons and escaping soldiers. The radio also cited reports that an antiaircraft unit near Hamah airport threatened to fire at Syrian planes if they attacked positions in Hamah.

Support for Al-Asad -- The Soviet ambassador in Damascus reiterated his country's firm support for Syria within the framework of the Syrian-Soviet friendship and cooperation treaty, SANA reported. The ambassador praised Syria's stands under the leadership of President Hafiz al-Asad and stressed that Syria constitutes the peak of all liberation movements in the region and of Arab struggle, SANA added. Meanwhile, Damascus radio reported further cables of support for Al-Asad from provincial popular organizations.

Israel

Sharon Interview -- Defense Minister Ari'el Sharon, in an interview broadcast by Jerusalem television, said Israel will not initiate a war, but a war may be imposed upon it. He claimed Israel has concrete evidence that Syria is preparing for war, despite its current internal situation. These preparations together with a massive "terrorist" buildup in Lebanon require Israel to be fully prepared to stand behind its declarations that it will not allow a return to the situation prevailing on the Lebanese border before July 1981, Sharon maintained. Referring to the cease-fire agreement obtained by U.S. special envoy Philip Habib, Sharon cited an article which says there will be no hostile military activity from Lebanon directed at targets in Israel via land, sea or air, and stressed that this clause is not limited to attacks via the northern border.

Distinguishing between the deep friendship between Israel and the United States and disagreements over issues such as arms supplies, Sharon said he is not reassured by U.S. President Ronald Reagan's message to Prime Minister Menahem Begin and would not be reassured even if Israel were compensated for the sale of advanced weapons to Jordan. Stressing that arms supplies to the Arab states will not bring peace to the region, Sharon asserted that Israel has halted the arms race and will make no further effort to compete with the Arabs over quantities of arms. Sharon then presented his conception of what Israel must do: 1) Without adding a single tank, plane or division, Israel must widen the quality gap between it and its neighbors; 2) Israel must maintain "safety valves," which include never allowing the production of nuclear weapons in Arab states, the change of the Sinai's demilitarized status, or the entry of Iraqi troops into Jordan; 3) Israel must keep the Arab states aware of the credibility of its deterrence. Sharon later illustrated the third point by citing the attack on the Iraqi reactor, which he said came after a warning delivered much earlier. He also said Israel must be prepared to keep its word to respond if its northern settlements are shelled.

West Bank Disturbances -- Jerusalem radio reported violent disturbances by Qalandiyah refugee camp youths in protest against the closure of Bi'r Zayt University.

Jordan

Amman radio reported that AD-DUSTUR described the U.S. administration's recent pledge to maintain Israel's military superiority as a humiliating retreat in the face of an Israeli campaign. Asserting that there are deals on which agreement has already been reached, AD-DUSTUR said Jordan will not stop serious efforts to obtain sophisticated weapons. According to the radio, AR-RA'Y likewise said the U.S. reassurances to Israel do not change Jordan's commitment to ensure the safety of its territory and airspace by all possible means.

Egypt - Oman

According to the joint statement issued by Omani Sultan Qabus ibn Sa'id and Egyptian President Husni Mubarak in the wake of the latter's visit to Oman, the text of which was transmitted by MENA, the two leaders discussed bilateral relations, the current Arab situation and important international issues. Sultan Qabus expressed understanding of and support for Mubarak's efforts to achieve a just and comprehensive Middle East peace, the statement said, while Mubarak emphasized Egypt's support for the role of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) in preserving the security and stability of the area and in developing its capabilities.

Mubarak also praised the Omani Government's wise policy toward the intrigues and plots to which it is exposed. The statement concluded by noting that Qabus accepted Mubarak's invitation to visit Egypt.

Iraq

First Deputy Prime Minister Taha Yasin Ramadan, in a lengthy interview with the London weekly AD-DUSTUR, said Iraq's military resources are now better than during the first month of the war. The Popular Army is now 400,000 strong, he said, and more than 55,000 of these men are fighting alongside the armed forces at the front. Iraq has overcome its initial difficulties in procuring arms and spare parts and will go on fighting until Iran fully recognizes Iraqi rights, he added. Ramadan said that 60 percent of the 10,000 Arab volunteers on the Iraqi side are Egyptians.

Elsewhere in the interview, Ramadan castigated Syrian President al-Asad for having lost all sense of shame when he sold the Golan Heights, betrayed the cause of Palestine and slaughtered Lebanon's patriots, striking at the Palestinians in alliance with the Phalangists. Ramadan claimed that Al-Asad is supporting Iran and Kurdish rebels led by the Barzani family against Iraq because the Syrian leader knows that an Iraqi victory would bring about his own downfall. Ramadan also indicated that Iraq feels hurt by the lukewarm support it has received from other Arabs, including the Palestinians, for its war with Iran. Asked about Iraq's relations with France, Ramadan denied reports that France has refused to supply Iraq with another nuclear reactor.

Iran

The Kuwaiti paper AS-SIYASAH reported that both President 'Ali Khamene'i and the Iranian ambassador to Kuwait have denied rumors that Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeyni has died. Meanwhile, Tehran radio's Arabic service noted that government spokesman Ahmad Tavakkoli denied rumors that the great ayatollahs will become members of the leadership council, which will be appointed by an experts committee to be elected at the end of April.

FBIS

DAILY REPORT

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FATAH'S KHALAF VIEWS SOUTH LEBANON SITUATION

JN122347 Monte Carlo Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1730 GMT 12 Feb 82

[Interview with Fatah leader Salah Khalaf by Monte Carlo Radio Beirut correspondent George Bashir from "It Happened Tomorrow" program -- live or recorded; date, place not given]

[Excerpt] [Question] As you know, there is another party in southern Lebanon, the Sa'd Haddad militia. Statements by Sa'd Haddad and Israel say that the Palestinian resistance brought various types of weapons, including heavy weapons, into southern Lebanon, which is in violation of the cease-fire agreement. You, the Palestinian resistance with all its factions, that is, the PLO, always expect an Israeli offensive. Can you elaborate on the situation?

[Answer] The Israeli threats give us the impression that there is aggression in the making, especially since they are openly talking about this aggression. All the statements by Begin, Sharon, Eytan or Shamir mention a strike at the Palestinian forces, giving the public the impression that the Palestinian resistance has obtained a certain weapon. Unfortunately, an Arab news agency reported that an official Palestinian source declared that we bought several million dollars worth of weapons from the Soviet Union. All these reports give the impression that aggression is being plotted despite the fact that the weapons of the Palestinian resistance have not changed. The Zionist enemy is attempting to justify its aggression to the world.

Agent Sa'd Haddad has exploited the recent clashes in southern Lebanon and attempted to win the Amal movement to his side. The Amal officials themselves told him that these clashes would not be repeated because they are just passing incidents. Hence, all these events and statements are meant to prepare people by informing them that the resistance weapons have changed qualitatively and that the situation in the south has changed. All this is justification for an aggression which we expect. I think Israel does not need any justification when it wants to commit aggression.

[Question] There have been many recent Arab developments. If Israel launches large-scale aggression in southern Lebanon, what do you expect the actual Palestinian reaction to be and how do you expect the Arabs to react?

[Answer] On our part, we will fight and fight. We have no choice but to fight because this fighting justifies our existence. Of course, I do not thirst for battle or war because I want to preserve our Palestinian and Lebanese peoples. However, if war is imposed on us, we will fight valiantly to defend the honor of the entire Arab nation.

[Question] What about the Arab position?

[Answer] I do not see anything in the Arab position. In fact I have never witnessed a worse Arab situation. Therefore, I do not want to give the fighters in the south any false hopes.

[Question] Since you have just remarked that the justification for the resistance is fighting, there are several projects being presented on ways to stop [word indistinct] in southern Lebanon, such as increasing the area where the UNIFIL forces are stationed. What is the Palestinian position on these projects?

[Answer] We will not give away things that Israel has not been able to take through war. Concerning the UNIFIL, we did not recognize or accept the UN Security Council position but we, on our part, facilitated the tasks of the UNIFIL forces among our Lebanese people in the south and in the Palestinian refugee camps. Nobody harms them.

Any increase in their deployment, change in the quality of their weapons or change in their tasks will be strongly opposed because it will mean they are no longer an emergency force, but are a force aimed against the Palestinian resistance and the Lebanese National Movement. Therefore, we believe that the current UNIFIL task is to restore the southern Lebanese border strip and to prevent the parties from violating the cease-fire. We are committed to the cease-fire, as we have stated on many occasions.

[Question] A prominent Palestinian official announced a few days ago that, if Israel launches an offensive against southern Lebanon, the Palestinian resistance will open fire against Israel on various fronts. Are there other fronts? Have there been certain arrangements made in this regard?

[Answer] You know that when fronts are open to us we will fight. In the event of a large-scale aggression, we will prove our presence on all the Arab fronts. We will do this to the best of our ability so that we can place ourselves in the proper position.

[Question] Thank you, Abu Iyad [Salah Khalaf].

ARAB LEAGUE OFFICIAL HITS U.S. ISRAELI POLICY

NC171047 Beirut MONDAY MORNING in English 8-14 Feb 82 pp 40-43

[By Claude Houry]

[Excerpts] The permanent representative of the Arab League at the UN and in the U.S. stated last week that the General Assembly resolution of sanctions against Israel was "morally and diplomatically binding" on the 55 states which sponsored it and the 86 states which voted for it at the General Assembly meeting on Friday, February 5.

Ambassador Clovis Maqsd, in a long-distance telephone interview with MONDAY MORNING, also said that the part of the resolution which described Israel as "not a peace-loving" member of the UN meant that the legality of Israel's membership would be "seriously questioned and scrutinized in the weeks and months ahead."

Maqsd said the Arab states would not exert pressure on countries to abide by the sanctions resolution, but they would seek to "contain" the pressure which the U.S. was exerting to prevent various countries from implementing the resolution.

The Arab League ambassador charged that during the General Assembly debate, the Americans waged a campaign of "diplomatic terrorism" against the states sponsoring the resolution and the states which were leaning towards supporting it, threatening them with various measures if they did not withdraw their support.

He said that by this "mind-boggling" behavior, the U.S. had identified itself not only with the existence of Israel but also with Israel's policy of expansion and annexation.

Maqsd Said that although the General Assembly resolution of sanctions against Israel was not legally binding on the international community, "it is morally and diplomatically binding on all the states that sponsored it -- and there are around 55 of those."

It was also "morally binding" on the 86 UN member-states which voted for it and which "constitute almost two-thirds of the United Nations," he said, adding that "it is even morally binding, to a certain extent, on the (34) states that abstained," because their abstention was "in many cases due to one particular phrase in the resolution and not to the thrust of the resolution."

He added: "Many countries will impose sanctions against Israel, abiding by the resolution, despite the fact that it is not mandatory, because it represents their assessment and their convictions."

Asked if the Arab states intended to exert pressure on any members of the UN to apply the sanctions resolution, he said: "The Arab states do not exert pressure as such. At the moment, we are trying to contain the excessive pressure which the United States is exerting on various states not to comply with this resolution...."

"We think that the condemnation of Israel is so universal that we need only coordinate with our friends around the world on how best to implement the resolution that has been adopted."

The United States, he said, had issued "blatant" threats to the countries that sponsored the resolution or voted for it, "and we consider the pressure which the U.S. exerted on the delegations during the debate not only excessive but in many instances provocative."

By doing this, the United States "completely identified itself not only with Israel's existence as a state but also with Israel's expansionist, annexationist policies," Maqsud said, "and this has raised many doubts about the durability of American convictions on Israel's behavior patterns."

Those convictions, he said, had been repeatedly expressed in Washington's rejection of Israel's illegal settlements in the West Bank, its condemnation of Israel's annexation of Jerusalem and, most recently, its support of the Security Council resolution in December which declared the Israeli annexation of the Golan Heights null and void and called on Israel to reverse that decision within three weeks.

Three weeks later, however, Washington vetoed a Security Council resolution which provided for sanctions against Israel for its refusal to abide by the December resolution, Maqsud said.

And when the Arabs took the matter to the veto-free General Assembly, "the United States conducted what amounted to a campaign of diplomatic terrorism against the states that wanted to vote in accordance with their convictions, in accordance with international law and the UN Charter, and even in accordance with the American-backed resolution which the Security Council adopted last December."

By this behavior, Maqsud said, Washington was flouting not only international law but also its own principles -- the principles it applied during the American hostage crisis in Iran and the principles it was applying in the cases of Afghanistan and Poland.

"America's abandonment of these principles now because they do not suit the purposes of Israel and do not underwrite Israel's policies of expansion and annexation is an instance of double standards which I am sure many people in the United States do not approve of, and I hope these people will make themselves heard," he said.

"Mrs (Jeane) Kirkpatrick, the U.S. ambassador to the UN, even went so far as to call the General Assembly Resolution 'mischievous', ignoring the fact that the 'mischief' was done by Israel, through its settlements policies, its annexation of Jerusalem, its bombing of Bagdad, its bombing of Beirut and its annexation of the Golan Heights.

"Mrs Kirkpatrick's statement is all the more mind-boggling because the United States knows that this resolution comes in compliance with Security Council Resolution 497, which was supported by the U.S. last December.

It appeared that the U.S. had been cowed by the reaction of Israeli Prime Minister Menahem Begin to that resolution, Maqsud said, adding: "It is unfortunate that Israel's reaction to American policies whenever these tend to be a bit more objective always tends to traumatize the United States, which appears to be helpless before the thrust of Israel's aggressive policies."

Asked to assess the outcome of Egyptian President Husni Mubarak's talks in Washington last week, Maqsud said:

"I think that President Mubarak, at least in terms of language, tried to distance himself from the more provocative policies and utterances of the late As-Sadat. He gave certain signals which reflect a popular Egyptian desire to return to the policy of non-alignment and openness with their Arab brothers. The signals also reflect the hope that Egypt can, at a certain point in time, restore its relations with the Arab States."

This "linguistic improvement" in the Egyptian policy under Mubarak, however, was not enough to vindicate Egypt's continuing commitments to the Egyptian-Israeli-American Camp David agreements, Maqsud said.

"It is obvious that President Mubarak has felt the pressure of the U.S. to continue to submit to the harassment of the Camp David agreement. There have been definite signals that President Mubarak wants to minimize the level of his attachment to the old policies, but there have been no signals that he is ready to abandon his commitment to Camp David. So, I would say there is an ambivalence in the posture and policies of President Mubarak. No evidence has emerged to warrant the conclusion that Egypt is on the verge of returning to the Arab fold, but there have been improvements in the language of Egyptian policy, a policy which now appears to be more sensitive to the Arabs' overall causes, more aware of the futility of the Camp David agreements and of the hostility that Israeli racism has toward the Palestinians."

"These improvements are definitely not sufficient. Egypt must realize that the Camp David agreements are not only an exercise in futility but are the major factor that has prevented Egypt from restoring its actual (as opposed to verbal) commitment to the Palestinians' rights and the Arabs' causes. It must realize that as long as it is shackled by the Camp David agreements, it cannot play its natural role in the overall strategy."

ARAB COMMITTEE ON LEBANON ENDS MEETING

LD160006 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 2300 GMT 15 Feb 82

[Text] The Arab committee charged by the 12th Arab Summit to draft a comprehensive Arab strategy plan to confront Israeli aggression in southern Lebanon, concluded its meeting in Tunis tonight. After only one closed session, which followed the opening session, the committee decided to hold its next meeting on 18 March in Tunis, to further study a comprehensive strategy plan.

This committee, headed by Arab League Secretary General Chedli Klibi, includes representatives from Lebanon, Syria, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Iraq, Jordan and the PLO.

The Lebanese Government recently sent a working paper to the member states of the committee and to the Arab League on Lebanon's views on drafting a comprehensive Arab strategy plan for southern Lebanon.

OPEC CHAIRMAN URGES PRODUCTION REDUCTIONS

GF161007 Doha QNA in Arabic 0752 GMT 16 Feb 82

[Text] Dubayy, 16 Feb (WAM) -- Mani' Sa'id al-'Utaybah, petroleum and natural resources minister and current OPEC chairman, has said that the only decisive solution to which OPEC countries will resort to in order to resolve the problem of the oil glut is to reduce production, even if they should suffer temporary financial loss.

In a statement to today's issue of AL-BAYAN, Al-'Utaybah said that OPEC may decide to take this step at an emergency advisory meeting. He said that preparations are being made to hold such a meeting prior to the ordinary meeting scheduled to be held in Ecuador on 20 May 1982. He emphasized that there has been no reduction in OPEC's official prices, contrary to western analysis and despite a \$2 to \$3 fall in OPEC's bench price on the spot market.

Al-'Utaybah warned that if the situation deteriorates any further the present oil market crisis will affect all OPEC members.

He said that one of the most important factors contributing to the current oil glut is the West's strategic reserve, which the industrial countries are drawing on at the rate of 4.5 million barrels a day. He said that most OPEC countries are currently producing oil at rates that are lower than their financial requirements. This applies to Kuwait, Libya and Iran. He asserted that the effect of the market situation on the UAE's production is still limited.

The UAE petroleum and natural resources minister expressed his willingness to discuss the situation with the international oil companies if they should want to do so. He said that no contacts in this regard have been made with these companies so far in view of the fact that their role has been purely confined to narrow technical and economic issues. Al-'Utaybah said that a long term strategy cannot be implemented at present because of the oil glut in the world that could continue for 1 or 2 years.

Al-'Utaybah asserted in his statement that oil can be a political and economic weapon but that what is important is the way it is used.

He called for discarding Arab differences which have had an effect on the use of the oil weapon, and called for the unification of the Arab ranks so that a consistent policy to regulate production and unify Arab oil policy can be drawn up.

Referring to OAPEC's crisis, he said that no OAPEC meeting will be held unless Tunisia is accepted as an OAPEC member. He said that if it is not accepted the organization will be finished. He expressed the hope that this crisis will be no more than a passing cloud.

AL-'UTAYBAH RULES OUT MEETING WITH PRODUCERS

GF141429 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1225 GMT 14 Feb 82

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 14 Feb (WAKH) -- Dr Mani' Sa'id al-'Utaybah, UAE minister of petroleum and mineral resources, today denied calling for any meeting between OPEC member countries and international petroleum companies in order to study the current situation regarding oil price declines in the spot markets.

In a statement to WAM, Al-'Utaybah affirmed that as the current chairman of the OPEC he is still consulting the 13 OPEC oil ministers on holding an emergency OPEC Ministerial Council meeting to study the situation on the oil market. He declined to reveal what has been achieved in this regard up to now.

Dr al-'Utaybah began his consultations by meeting with his Saudi and Kuwait counterparts, Shaykh Ahmad Zaki Yamani and Shaykh 'Ali Khalifah as-Sabah, while attending the International Energy Group conference in Abu Dhabi last week.

VENEZUELAN OIL MINISTER DOWNPLAYS EARLY MEETING

FL170006 Bridgetown CANA in English 2320 GMT 17 Feb 82

[Text] Caracas, 16 Feb (CANA-REUTER) -- Venezuelan Energy Minister Humberto Calderon Berti said today he saw no reason for an emergency OPEC meeting before next May to discuss how to cope with the current decline in world oil demand.

Mr Calderon had been asked to comment on a newspaper interview in which Mani' Sa'id Al-'Utaybah, president of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries, was quoted as saying he was in touch with colleagues on a possible early meeting of OPEC before its scheduled conference in Quito on May 20.

The Venezuelan minister told journalists: "We have been in touch with the other OPEC countries and most of us believe there is no point in meeting if there is nothing concrete as a basis for decisions."

In the interview, Dr Al'utaybah, oil minister of the United Arab Emirates, called for swift cuts in oil production to deal with the current world glut.

Senior Energy Ministry sources here said that Venezuela also believed that only drastic production cuts could resolve the glut, which has sent prices tumbling on the spot, non-contract market, and that demand would not be revived simply by reducing prices.

The ministry sources said that the market was even weaker than it appeared. According to intelligence reports reaching Caracas, Saudi Arabia's oil production was currently down to around seven million barrels daily, they said.

After talks here with Mr Calderon on the effects of the oil glut, Jose Andres Oteyza, Mexico's industrial development secretary, said his country and Venezuela had agreed to coordinate marketing strategy, particularly on heavy crudes where both countries have been hit this year by sagging demand.

"We discussed how to better coordinate our oil policies so as to defend mutual interests, as well as plans for a new multinational oil company representing the state entities of Brazil, Mexico and Venezuela," he said.

He did not say whether either side had agreed to cut production of heavy crudes, where both compete closely for the U.S. market.

Venezuelan fuel oil exports, currently averaging around 300,000 barrels per day, have been hurt this year by competition from Mexico, which produces 80,000 to 100,000 barrels daily, industry sources said.

OPEC ADVISING OLADE ON ENERGY INFORMATION SYSTEM

PA121820 Apris AFP in Spanish 1529 GMT 12 Feb 82

[Text] Quito, 12 Feb (AFP) -- It was learned today that OPEC has been advising OLADE about the creation of an international energy information system.

Within the framework of the various areas of cooperation recently established between the two energy organizations, statistics expert Luis Lugo, head of the OPEC's Information Department, has held talks with OLADE Executive Secretary Ulises Ramirez.

One of the projects to be implemented by the regional energy organization, which has its headquarters in Quito, is the creation of the global interagency system of energy information [sistema global interagencial de informacion energetica, SIIE], which will be a specialized mechanism that will control the flow of information among the 26 members of OLADE.

The SIEE project is included in the Latin American Program of Energy Cooperation [Programa Latino Americano de Cooperacion Energetica, PLACE] and will be based on the establishment of a document center and a data bank.

Lugo and the members of OLADE's Directorate of Energy Studies and Planning have studied the future areas of cooperation based on the advanced information system on hydrocarbons that OPEC currently has.

In this framework, OLADE will use OPEC's periodical publications and part of its technological assets in the area of statistics on hydrocarbons as a subject of its specialization.

OLADE indicated that the data bank will serve to follow the market's situation, prices and consumption trends of the main fuels.

This information will also serve as a basic tool in planning the development of resources and will serve as a basis for the member countries' decisions in the energy field.

OPEC, BRAZIL AND MOZAMBIQUE TO SIGN MINERAL PACT

PY190155 Buenos Aires AFP in Spanish 2345 GMT 15 Jan 82

[Text] Brasilia, 15 Jan (AFP) -- A trilateral agreement to enable the construction of large projects in Mozambique on the part of Brazilian firms was signed in Vienna on 12 January by Mozambique, Brazil and the OPEC Fund for International Development, it was learned here today.

According to the provisions of the agreement, a consortium of Brazilian enterprises will be in charge of evaluating the coal reserves in Mucanha Vuzi region and afterward equipping the mine by supplying material and transportation means. The studies related to that project should be finished in the next 14 months and its cost will amount to \$5.4 million, of which the OPEC fund will furnish \$2.3 million.

The total cost of the project, according to estimates, will amount to \$700 million by the time the project begins operating within 6 or 7 years.

SAUDI ARABIA'UKAZ REJECTS KHALAF CRITICISM OF SAUDI POLICY

LD170820 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 0700 GMT 17 Feb 82

[From the press review]

[Text] Riyadh, 17 Feb (SPA) -- The paper 'UKAZ denounces the ingratitude of certain elements for things the kingdom has done. It says: It is regrettable that a single Arab from this nation should deny fact and that such a denial should come from a person who is supposed to know more than others about the material and moral support the kingdom has never failed and will never fail to extend to the Palestinian people.

Referring to statements made by Salah Kalaf, the paper says: If we go along with the dubious logic of Abu Iyad [Salah Khalaf] then the fact that the PLO gets Russian weapons means that it is an agent of the Soviet Union, and Yasir 'Arafat's call on President Reagan to open a dialogue with the organization means that 'Arafat wants to become an agent of the United States.

'UKAZ further says: One would never have thought that a responsible official like Salah Khalaf would stoop to such a low level of thought and to such light-headedness, which sows the seeds of division in the Arab nation and is in the interest of neither this nation nor the Palestinian people. 'UKAZ adds that the Palestinian people, who receive Saudi aid even inside the Arab occupied territories, and the Palestinian mujahid, who carries the rifle offered by the Saudi people, both realize before anyone else, who is truthful in his position toward them and who is engaging in oneupmanship.

In conclusion, 'UKAZ reaffirms that the kingdom does not need to defend its true Arab orientation and its nonaligned policy -- a policy nonaligned politically and militarily that rejects foreign military bases on its territories and refuses to enter into the circle of international polarization.

PDRYCONSPIRACY TRIAL RESUMES IN ADEN 17 FEB

LD171600 Aden ANA in Arabic 1400 GMT 17 Feb 82

[Text] Aden, 17 Feb (ANA) -- The republic's Supreme Court resumed its session this morning under brother Najib Shumayri, president of the court, to consider the case of conspiracy and sabotage in which 12 agent defendants entered the country to carry out acts of sabotage and destruction in many vital places and economic installations. At today's session the president of the court reviewed in detail the charges against the defendants. Then the court heard the confession of the first defendant, Hasan Nasir Ahmad, a member of the An-Nisr sabotage group, of how he fled the country, his external conspiratorial activity, his meetings with agent elements abroad and his theoretical and applied studies with foreign experts using a map of the PDRY and a compass. The court heard about his training in the use of plastic explosives and also his confession about exploring the oil tanks at Rawdah in Al-Qulay'ah.

Then the defense representatives questioned the first defendant about his social circumstances and how he became involved in the sabotage gang, about his moves and activity abroad and his relationship with the defendants. The defendant was also questioned by the general prosecutor. The court heard the confession of the second defendant Nasir Fadhil Nasir, after the president of the court reviewed the charges against him, which described his social circumstances, his activity abroad and at home and his links with agents abroad.

The defendant confessed to the charges, his links with agents abroad, his use of various timed and incendiary explosives, the dates of his meetings with the defendants and with agent elements at home. He admitted the codes and the passwords he used with the rest of the defendants. He also admitted he explored the tanks at Rawdah and acknowledged his links with the gang.

Then the president of the court presented evidence which condemned the defendants, such as explosives, pictures and clothing in their possession. The session was recessed and will resume on Saturday morning.

Additional Report

LD181006 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 0855 GMT 18 Feb 82

[Excerpts] Kuwait, 18 Feb (KUNA) -- According to press reports published here today, the Supreme Court in South Yemen has continued the trial of members of a group accused of planning to blow up and destroy a number of establishments and economic projects and institutions in the country.

In two dispatches from Aden, the Kuwaiti papers AL-HADAF and AS-SIYASAH said that yesterday the court resumed the trial of 11 persons from South Yemen whose ages vary from 20 to 35 years old, plus one who is 72 years old.

The papers reported that most of the defendants used to be in the police or the army with the exception of the elderly defendant who used to work for Cable and Wireless during the British occupation of South Yemen.

The two papers quoted the Yemeni public prosecutor as accusing U.S. figures and other elements, whom he did not name, of organizing the sabotage network, two of whose members are still at large.

AL-HADAF quoted court sources as saying that the 12 defendants have asked for the court's mercy. At yesterday's public sitting, defendants said that two military experts trained him in the use of timebombs and detonating equipment in a foreign state which he did not name. The defendant, Hasan Nasir, who is 25, said the training involved lectures, and lessons on how to read military maps in addition to training in basic military operations. He said that after training he entered the country last March to study the targets on the spot, including the oil tanks in the residential Al-Qulay'ah area. Last June he returned to his base abroad for further consultations with the Americans.

Nasir went on to say that he infiltrated into Aden last November and waited in his town for the zero hour scheduled for 13 February. However, he was arrested a few days before that date.

The court sources said the other nine defendants stated that they were unaware of the nature of the mission which they were going to execute and quoted them as saying that they joined a consultative firm in a foreign country until they were entrusted with the task of infiltrating South Yemen.

Rally Denounces Conspiracy

EAL72136 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 17 Feb 82

[Text] A mass rally was held at noon today in the Confederation of Trade Unions Square in Mualla to denounce the conspiratorial acts of the hostile sabotage network inside Democratic Yemen.

The rally was attended by Brother Abu Bakr Ba Dhib, member of the Political Bureau and secretary of the YSP Central Committee; Brig Salih Muslih Qasim, member of the Central Committee and defense minister; a number of brother members of the Central Committee; leaders of mass movements and thousands of sons of the Aden governorate including workers, students, intellectuals, men, women, children and the elderly. The masses carried banners denouncing the sabotage conspiracies planned by a sabotage gang financed from abroad.

The rally opened with a speech given on behalf of the mass movements by Brother Riyadh al-Akbari, member of the Central Committee and secretary of the Yemeni Socialist Youth Union. Brother Salih Muslih Qasim also gave a speech in which he expressed the masses' denunciation of the sabotage gang in Democratic Yemen.

PEACE CONFERENCE SENDS SUPPORT LETTER TO SYRIA

JN112221 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1915 GMG 11 Feb 82

[Text] The international conference for peace which was held in Aden sent a letter of greetings and support to struggling President Hafiz al-Asad, Ba'th Party secretary general and president of the republic. The letter said the international conference received with pleasure and appreciation the letter of greetings and solidarity sent by President al-Asad. The conference's letter said that the participants express their concern over and firm condemnation of Israel's decision to annex the Syrian Arab Golan territory and have issued a call for all the forces of peace in the world and for all governments to exert their utmost efforts to implement the UN General Assembly resolution of 5 February 1982. This resolution, the letter went on, condemns Israel and calls on the UN members to impose sanctions on it and boycott it. The letter said: The conference expresses its concern, denunciation and condemnation of Israel's hostile acts, such as the concentration of forces and threats against Syria, Lebanon and the Palestinian resistance. The conference strongly condemns these hostile acts coordinated with and protected by the United States, which renders political, economic and military support to Israel, and stresses that these acts contradict human rights and international norms.

The letter went on: We express our complete support for and solidarity with Syria under your courageous and wise leadership and strongly condemn all forms of internal and external pressures and plots directed against Syria to force it to renounce its free policy and its resistance to the Camp David policy. The conference highly values Syria's sincere support for the Palestinian people and the PLO, and its important role in Lebanon and support for the Lebanese people and their National Movement and forces in an effort to preserve Lebanese peace and security and guarantee its sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity.

In conclusion, the letter reiterated that the world peace movement will continue to back Syria in its struggle to foil the imperialist and Zionist plot and to promote its just cause.

The delegation of the Syrian National Council for Peace Partisans headed by Comrade Ahmad al-Hasan, candidate member of the Ba'th Party National Command and deputy chairman of the council, returned to Damascus today after taking part in the international council for peace which was held in Aden through the joint cooperation the WPC and the PDRY Peace and Solidarity Council.

DFLP'S NAYIF HAWATIMAH DEPARTS AFTER TALKS

EA131636 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 13 Feb 82

[Summary] Nayif Hawatimah, secretary general of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine, [DFLP] and his delegation left Aden after several day is stay in the country.

In a statement to the ADEN NEWS AGENCY Hawatimah said that during the visit he and his delegation held a series of working meetings with the YSP Political Bureau and bilateral meetings with Chairman 'Ali Nasir Muhammad.

SOVIET DEPUTY TRADE MINISTER ARRIVES FOR VISIT

EAL30516 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 12 Feb 82

[Text] Comrade [name indistinct], the Soviet deputy foreign trade minister, arrived in Aden this morning for a several days visit to Democratic Yemen, during which he will hold discussions with Trade and Supply Ministry officials. The deputy foreign trade minister said his visit to our country will promote trade exchange between the two friendly countries. He indicated that during the visit a new trade exchange protocol for the current year 1982 will be signed. A number of officials from the Trade and Supply Ministry met him on his arrival in Aden.

YAR

PRESIDENT COMMENTS ON INTERNAL, FOREIGN AFFAIRS

JN151657 San'a' Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 15 Feb 82

[Interview with YAR President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih by Kuwaiti paper AL-WATAN -- date and place not specified]

[Excerpts] Question: Mr President, the internal situation in your country is becoming an important concern of the news media. Will you please give us the truth and describe the dimensions of what is taking place in Yemen?

Answer: Our country, thanks to the almighty, enjoys a stable and solid internal situation, thanks to the triumph of the immortal September Revolution and its ability to solve the resulting problems we inherited from the deposed imam's era and from Yemeni internal and external isolation. After the triumph of the revolution, a new Yemeni life was begun, governed by freedom and democracy and supported by national unity and a legitimate aspiration to renew our past glorious civilization and to catch up with the current age. All this has indeed enabled us to create a vast base for joint Yemeni action founded on the principle of a common shouldering of the national responsibility and development of the homeland. Thus, we have been trying to enable all of the Yemeni people to participate in drafting a national constitution through the National Dialogue Committee and the various small popular meetings. There is no doubt that the General People's Congress to be held next month to endorse the Yemeni national constitution will further endorse this policy, entrench the strength of Yemeni national unity, strengthen the solidity and stability of existing positive conditions and help to promote progress, construction and development in Yemen.

Question: Can you tell us what the Iranian charge d'affairs did here and whether there is sectarian sedition in Yemen?

Answer: The charge was caught distributing leaflets harmful to the country's policy, thereby abusing his diplomatic immunity which, according to international law, should not be used for illegal acts.

Question: It was reported prior to your visit to Moscow that you were going to sign a friendship agreement with the USSR. Why didn't you sign such an agreement and how do you assess your relations with the Soviets before and after the visit?

Answer: During our visit to the USSR, we signed a number of agreements which were intended to further develop our bilateral relations and expand joint economic, technical and cultural cooperation to serve our common interests. Therefore, our relations with the USSR are long-standing and ever-growing because they are founded on the principle of friendship and cooperation as well as on mutual respect, so we can struggle together to support the march of coexistence in the world.

Question: What is the relation between your visit to Moscow and the visits which immediately followed it to Algiers, Damascus and Riyadh?

Answer: There is no direct relation because we do not tie our inter-Arab relations to our relations with friendly states. The proximity in the dates of these visits could have raised such a question.

Question: More than one analysis says that San'a' has tried to join the GCC and the Steadfastness and Confrontation Front. What is your evaluation of such analyses and where does San'a' stand on these two Arab groups?

Answer: We do not have to review all our stands on various issues and affairs, particularly since our country has specific guidelines for its Arab policy, the Arab League charter and the unanimous Arab resolutions. San'a' is always at the heart of Arab solidarity. We always see that our stands meet with our national sense of belonging and with our country's neutral policy, which has helped us win the respect and friendship of all.

Question: Your country, Mr President, is markedly committed to a nonalignment policy and to positive neutrality. Your country is being subjected to polarization attempts by this or that camp. How far can you protect your neutrality?

Answer: I can stress that we will continue to the very end to maintain our country's policy, which is committed to the principle of positive neutrality and nonalignment which is dictated by the position, situation and circumstances of Yemen. Now, I answer the last part of the question by stressing that the aforementioned policy is closely tied to our internal policy, for each one reflects the other. Our domestic success is certainly reflected abroad and vice versa.

Question: What is the aim of your coming Gulf tour?

Answer: Our coming tour of the Gulf states, Iraq and Jordan is intended to further strengthen our cordial relations with these countries and to discuss with the leaders of these states means of further expanding our relations. We will also exchange opinions on the current Arab situation as well as on recent Arab and international developments so we reach a joint Arab concept that may help to restore Arab solidarity and mobilize all our potential and strength to confront the increasing challenges and threats which endanger our nation, our stability, our sovereignty and our civilization.

REPORTAGE ON MUBARAK'S STATE VISIT TO OMAN

Joint Statement Text

NC171517 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1400 GMT 17 Feb 82

[Text] Cairo, 17 Feb (MENA) -- Sultan Qabus Ibn Sa'id of Oman has shown his understanding of and support for the efforts President Husni Mubarak is exerting for the establishment of a just and comprehensive peace in the Middle East region that will ensure the rights of the Palestinian people and the Arab nation and enable the peoples of the area to enjoy security and stability.

President Husni Mubarak emphasized Egypt's support for the role which the Gulf Cooperation Council of the Arab states is playing to preserve the security and stability of the area and to develop the area's capabilities in the service of its people. President Mubarak also praised the wise policy which the government of Sultan Qabus is pursuing vis-a-vis the intrigues and plots to which it is subjected.

This came in a joint statement issued this evening in both Cairo and Muscat on President Husni Mubarak's 2-day visit to the Sultanate of Oman.

President Husni Mubarak and Sultan Qabus Ibn Sa'id expressed their satisfaction with the level of relations between Egypt and the Sultanate of Oman. They agreed on the need to continue efforts to enhance and consolidate the relations between the two countries in all fields. President Husni Mubarak invited Sultan Qabus to visit Egypt. Sultan Qabus accepted the invitation, and the date of the visit will be agreed upon through diplomatic channels.

The statement points out that President Mubarak's talks with Sultan Qabus dealt with the bilateral relations between the two countries, the current situation in the Arab area, particularly the efforts which Egypt is making to complete the process of a just and comprehensive peace in the Middle East and the situation in the Arab Gulf Area, and other important international issues.

The following is the text of the Egyptian-Omani joint statement:

In response to an invitation extended by His Majesty Sultan Qabus Ibn Sa'id, sultan of Oman, His Excellency President Muhammad Husni Mubarak, president of the Arab Republic of Egypt, paid an official visit to the Sultanate of Oman from 22 Rabi' ath-Thani 1402 Hegira, or 16 February 1982, to 23 Rabi' ath-Thani 1402 Hegira, or 17 February 1982.

His excellency the president of the Arab Republic of Egypt was accorded an official and popular reception that expressed the feelings of affection and amity which the Omani people have for their fraternal Egyptian people and reflected the profundity of the fraternal ties and bonds that exist between the two fraternal countries. In an atmosphere dominated by a spirit of sincere fraternity and mutual eagerness to consolidate the cooperation existing between the two fraternal countries, the two leaders held official discussions that dealt with the bilateral relations between the two fraternal countries, the current situation in the Arab area, particularly the efforts which Egypt is exerting for completing the steps for a comprehensive and just peace in the Middle East and the situation in the Arab Gulf area, and other important international issues.

His Majesty Sultan Qabus Ibn Sa'id demonstrated his understanding of and support for the efforts which his brother His Excellency President Muhammad Husni Mubarak is making for the establishment of a just and comprehensive peace in the Middle East area in a manner that ensures the rights of the Palestinian people and the Arab nation and enables the peoples of the area to enjoy security and stability.

On the other hand, His Excellency President Muhammad Husni Mubarak emphasized Egypt's support for the role the Gulf Cooperation Council is playing to preserve the security and stability of the area and to develop its capabilities in the service of its people. In this respect, His Excellency President Muhammad Husni Mubarak praised the wise policy which the government of His Majesty Sultan Qabus Ibn Sa'id is pursuing vis-a-vis the intrigues and plots to which it is exposed.

The two leaders expressed their satisfaction with the level reached in the relations between the two fraternal countries. They agreed on the need to continue efforts to enhance and consolidate relations between the two fraternal peoples in all fields.

His Excellency President Muhammad Husni Mubarak expressed his gratitude and appreciation of the hospitality and generosity accorded him and the delegation accompanying him.

President Muhammad Husni Mubarak extended an invitation to his Majesty Sultan Qabus Ibn Sa'id to visit the Arab Republic of Egypt. His majesty the sultan accepted the invitation. A date for the visit will be agreed upon through diplomatic channels.

Mubarak Returns to Cairo

NC171348 Cairo MENA in English 1312 GMT 17 Feb 82

[Text] Cairo, 17 Feb (MENA) -- President Husni Mubarak returned here today at 1430 from Muscat after a two-day visit to Oman and talks with Sultan Qabus.

He was welcomed on arrival by Prime Minister Dr Fu'ad Muhyi ad-Din, Parliament Speaker Dr Sufi Abu Talib, Speaker of Shura Council Dr Subhi 'Abd al-Hakim and other senior officials.

Mubarak on Talks

NC171545 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1410 GMT 17 Feb 82

[Text] Cairo, 17 Feb (MENA) -- President Husni Mubarak has stated that his talks with Sultan Qabus Ibn Sa'id, the sultan of Oman, dealt with the developments in the Palestinian autonomy talks, the results of his recent visit to Western Europe and the United States and the whole Arab situation and future possibilities.

In statements to newspaper chief editors who accompanied him on his visit to Oman, President Mubarak affirmed: All that concerns me now and after 25 April is provision for housing and food and increasing production. Anything else is of no concern to me.

In statements on board the plane on his return to Cairo, President Mubarak added that the 25 April celebrations will be restricted to flag-raising ceremonies in the areas from which Israel will withdraw and a speech in the People's Assembly on this occasion.

'Ali Comments on Visit

NC171550 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 17 Feb 82

[Text] Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Kamal Hasan 'Ali has stated that [President Muhammad Husni Mubarak's] visit [to Oman] had been scheduled and that the discussions held there dealt with the Middle East, bilateral relations between the two countries which he described as strong, and the Arab world.

'Ali said that Oman's stand on the Camp David agreements and the cause of peace is declared and known. He added that, in its capacity as a member of the Arab League, Oman has relations with the other Arab states and it is expected to play a role in this respect. But this subject was not discussed during the visit.

Cairo Radio Commentary

NC171542 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 17 Feb 82

[Muhammad al-Bashbishi Commentary]

[Text] Before he embarked on his first trip to Europe and the United States as president of the Arab Republic of Egypt, President Husni Mubarak met with Sudanese President Ja'far Numayri in the Egyptian city of Aswan to become acquainted with fraternal Sudan's needs and to coordinate stands between Cairo and Khartoum. During his talks with U.S. President Reagan at the White House, President Mubarak asked that Washington increase its military aid to Sudan, Oman and Arab Somalia and emphasized the Palestinian people's inalienable legitimate right to establish their independent state on their soil. He also urged the U.S. administration to hold a direct dialogue with the Palestinians.

After his return from a successful European-U.S. tour, and despite his many tasks to put the house in order, President Mubarak did not hesitate to respond to Sultan Qabus' invitation to visit fraternal and friendly Oman. Egypt has always been thus with the Arab nation and the Arab nation's causes and problems. And it has not been and will not be oblivious of them.

President Mubarak's visit, which constitutes a confirmation of this concept, acquires special importance in the light of current Arab circumstances, particularly in the Gulf area, and the current developments in the Middle East region. It is observed that the Arab capitals are now in a state of anticipation, waiting for the date of Israel's scheduled total withdrawal from the Sinai in April. Earlier in the Arab-Israeli conflict, this would have been unbelievable. The best proof of the fact that this withdrawal is awaited is the statement by an Arab leader that that date will be important for all Arabs.

Egypt appreciates Oman's consistent support for Egypt's strategic, peaceful policy. Mubarak's present visit confirms the continuation of coordination and consultation between the two friendly countries to achieve a unified stand on the issues of security and peace in the area. Egypt views the Red Sea as an important strategic area which has a direct impact on Egypt's security. Therefore, Egypt believes that this sea must remain clear and free of any foreign domination or interference. There is no doubt that Oman's strategic and sensitive location in the Gulf area and on the Strait of Hormuz, one of the most important international waterways, has made Oman directly responsible for safeguarding this waterway and navigation in it.

It is on this basis that Egyptian and Omani views coincide on area security. We appreciate the fact that Sultan Qabus was the first Arab leader to present a plan for defending the Gulf against the threat of foreign intervention. We also mention here that Egypt was the first country to respond to his call and to support it by declaring readiness to provide military facilities for defending the oil-rich Gulf area and the eastern line of defense of the Arab world.

Therefore, we will not be exaggerating if we say that Mubarak's visit to Oman is regarded as the beginning of a new phase of joining Arab action to defend the security and safety of the Arab homeland so that it will be able to achieve its major objectives of peace, stability and prosperity.

Cairo Dailies on Trip

NC172351 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2242 GMT 17 Feb 82

[Text] Cairo, 17 Feb (MENA) -- Tomorrow's Cairo papers focus their comments on the underlying importance of President Husni Mubarak's visit to the Sultanate of Oman. The papers affirm that the trip's results, which were achieved by the discussions of the Egyptian president with Sultan Qabus ibn Sa'id, will be apparent within the next few days.

The papers note that the results of the discussions between Mubarak and Qabus ibn Sa'id will have a positive impact on the relations between their two countries and on inter-Arab relations in general.

In its commentary AL-AHRAM says: Mubarak's visit to Oman is important in two ways. First, working together to ensure the safety of the whole area is important, because each side occupies an extremely vital, strategic position in such a way that it can be said that Oman constitutes a strategic extension of Egypt -- and the converse holds true.

AL-AHRAM continues: The second aspect of importance to the Arabs is Egypt's readiness to deal as equals with its sister Arab states concerning matters of common interest and major causes. Egypt is ready for such relations and will devote all its efforts to them in a realistic manner based on mutual understanding and respect. Furthermore, this clear-cut basis for fraternal relations based on mutual support, far removed from criticism and sensitivity, and Egypt's affirmation of an open door to any Arab state desiring to restore normal relations, creates an appropriate atmosphere for further cooperation in ensuring stability for the area and protecting it from the dangers of polarization in a constructive Arab spirit.

In its commentary AL-AKHBAR says: The joint statement released on Mubarak's visit to Oman makes it clear that the two countries have committed themselves to assuming a historical responsibility for the Arab nation and for the Gulf area in particular. The reason is that the Gulf area is the abode of the danger, or the first milestone on the road to this danger, due to the focusing of foreign ambitions and dubious tendencies here.

The paper adds: There can be no doubt that prospects for the future, as far as this area is concerned, are awesome. Confronting these prospects requires a strong and solid response. It is inevitable that the Arabs respond to their own requirements -- and this is what Egypt has been advocating ever since danger began to move toward this area.

The paper affirms that Egypt is meeting its responsibilities in this region. It says: by playing this role, Egypt wants neither to gratify nor anger anyone. On the contrary, by playing this role Egypt seeks to achieve the general interest of all Arabs. The paper continues: All that can be said is that the matter allows neither slackening nor evasion of the situation. This is because the possibilities of the future are numerous -- and some of these potentials might endanger the Arab nation. Perhaps the soundest stance which can be taken is for the Arabs to face their responsibility, for their own good, and to prove themselves by taking this stance. If this is done, the possibilities of the future will not entail even the slightest danger.

In conclusion, the paper affirms that the results of the discussions between President Mubarak and Sultan Qabus ibn Sa'id will appear soon, and everyone will know that the era of statements and slogans has ended, that this situation requires effort, sincerity and loyalty, so the Arab nation can indeed be its own master and control its own future.

GHALI MEETS ISRAELI INFORMATION DELEGATION

NC172144 Cairo MENA in English 2141 GMT 17 Feb 82

[Text] Cairo, 17 Feb (MENA) -- Dr Butrus Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs briefed an Israeli information delegation today on Egypt's adherence to the quest for a comprehensive peace in the Middle East along with the Palestinian autonomy negotiations to reach positive results.

Ghali called on the delegation to inform Israeli public opinion on Egypt's stand, adding that the mass media should undertake a positive role to stimulate an Arab-Israeli dialogue.

AFRO-ASIAN COMMITTEE CONDEMNS SYRIAN REJECTION

NC171952 Cairo MENA in English 1915 GMT 17 Feb 82

[Text] Cairo, 17 Feb (MENA) -- The Egyptian Afro-Asian Solidarity Committee condemned today the refusal of its Syrian counterpart to let it take part in the Damascus conference of the Afro-Asian Solidarity Committee to discuss the Golan issue.

A statement issued by the Egyptian committee said the committee had been ready to proceed to Damascus when it received a cable from its Syrian counterpart excusing itself from receiving it.

The Egyptian statement termed this refusal as serious precedent" and violation of the charter of the Afro-Asian Peoples' Solidarity Organization. [quotes as received]

The Egyptian committee called on the general secretariat of the organization to give a clarification of the incident and to take the necessary measures in face of the Syrian committee's unilateral decision imposed upon the organization as an accomplished fact.

The statement reaffirmed the Egyptian committee's solidarity with the Syrian people against the Israeli decision to annex the Golan Heights.

LABOR'S SHUKRI URGES ARAB RECONCILIATION

GF180414 Doha QNA in Arabic 1008 GMT 17 Feb 82

[Text] Dubayy, 17 Feb (QNA) -- Ibrahim Shukri, leader of the Egyptian Socialist Labor Party [SLP], has announced that there can be no solution to the Palestinian question without the unity of all Arab forces and the participation of the PLO, which represents the Palestinian people. He expressed a belief that it will be more convenient to reach a comprehensive solution to the Middle East problem after 25 April -- the date of Israel's final withdrawal from Sinai -- and in the presence of a new Egyptian leadership represented by President Husni Mubarak.

In a statement to today's issue of the UAE paper AL-BAYAN, Ibrahim Shukri said that the Saudi peace plan could become a new basis for achieving peace in the Middle East. He noted the importance of Palestinian approval and support by the majority of Arab states for the plan.

The SLP leader said he will visit Algeria, Tunisia and Morocco at the end of March within the framework of SLP contacts with Arab states in order to strengthen Egypt's relations with Arab countries. He indicated that his contacts will also include the PLO.

Ibrahim Shukri lauded President Husni Mubarak's policy toward the superpowers. He said that President Mubarak pursues a realistic policy toward both superpowers and works to establish balanced relations with the two camps, thus reflecting a new stand that is different from the previous one.

PRIME MINISTER INTERVIEWED ON WAR WITH IRAN

PM171201 London AD-DUSTUR in Arabic 15 Feb 82 pp 18-21

['Abd al-Wahhab al-Qaysi interview with First Deputy Prime Minister and Commander in Chief of the Popular Army Taha Yasin Ramadan in Baghdad: "An Iraqi Victory Would Mean the End of Hafiz al-Asad" -- date not given]

[Text] AD-DUSTUR: How do you assess the Iraqi military position on the battlefield at present, bearing in mind the Iranian claim of victory in the Bostan area?

Ramadan: I say there is a new reality and a new spirit now reflecting our effective presence and intrinsic capabilities and resources which are at present good, in fact without exaggeration, they are much better than during the first month of the war. I am not saying they are better than they were on the first 2 days of the war.

Many factors have contributed to our present state. Numerically, our military units are now much larger than they were then. As far as the militia is concerned, it is now much, much bigger than in the first month of the war. When the war began the Popular Army consisted of 230,000 fighters. Now it has 400,000. This figure will be 500,000 by the end of the year, all trained on various types of weapons. We may have encountered some difficulties at the beginning of the war, as far as arms and spare parts were concerned, but we have long since overcome them. We have no problems now. The situation is in our favor and our strike forces are in control. Iraq now has the military capabilities as well as an organized and able economy. This is what is important. We will go on fighting for any length of time until the Persian enemy fully recognizes our rights.

As for the Bostan area over which there has been much clamor, it is not worth the massive losses suffered by the Persian enemy. If Iran has managed to seize a few kilometers, it is something that has happened on Iranian, not Iraqi territory. We do not care to go into this matter or answer their lies and false claims. Iraq can impose its military will on any area it deems necessary to occupy for reasons of military strategy.

Despite the intransigence of Iran and those behind it, Iraq is still in favor of a just solution that guarantees our rights and precludes interference in our domestic affairs. We have prepared all that is necessary for progress along two parallel lines. On the one hand, we have prepared the armed forces and all the people as a striking force, and on the other, we have turned our economy into a war economy with reserves to last for a long time. We are not worried about anything, least of all the size of our forces at the front. We are fully confident that our forces are capable of victory whatever the circumstances and considering the worst possibilities.

AD-DUSTUR: There has been a new turn in the Arab attitude. I refer here to the voluntary enlistment in the Al-Yarmuk forces, including His Majesty King Husayn himself. Do you expect other Arab developments?

Ramadan: Frankly, the enemy has benefited from the Arab attitudes. The war would not have dragged on so long if the Arabs had adopted a firm pan-Arab stand. The war would never have broken out if there had been a clear Arab stand. The Iranian rulers would not have deluded themselves into believing they could defeat and humiliate Iraq. We know certain negative aspects in the Arab position contributed to the outbreak of the fighting in the first place. The Damascus rulers and the Zionists played an important part in inducing Iran to launch the war against Iraq. The Iraqis are hurt that the Arabs did not move to support them -- excluding of course the Arab volunteers who acted against the will of their rulers.

It is important to point out that Iraq needs not so much fighters as a firm Arab stand. The absence of such a stand makes the Iranian rulers continue with their arrogance and nonchalance.

The Jordanian attitude is commensurate with the events and the cause. We in Iraq welcome the honorable and genuine position taken by His Majesty King Husayn. The Jordanian position is nothing new. Iraq will never forget this noble and honorable stand of fraternal Jordan and its monarch. We hope Jordan's attitude will provoke some Arab reaction.

AD-DUSTUR: How many Arab volunteers are there?

Ramadan: We have 10,000 Arab volunteers who, as I said, have acted against the will of their rulers. Sixty percent of them are Egyptian brothers. The Arab rulers are requested to support Iraq more firmly, because history will not spare them if they fail to do so. Our war against the Persians is the first in history to triumph in the liberation of Arab territory.

AD-DUSTUR: It has been reported that Iran has approved the idea of family visits for POW's. What is your comment on this? Does it mean Iran is beginning to be reasonable and to change its previous policy?

Ramadan: We do not wish to evaluate it. Agreeing to visits is a natural thing from a humanitarian viewpoint. This is what the Iraqi side has been urging since the beginning of the war. We have many reasons not to hope for anything good from these rulers, who flaunt their arrogance all the time.

AD-DUSTUR: The hitherto pro-Iran Palestinians have withdrawn their support for Iran since Khomeyni's declaration that he wanted 'Arafat's head. How do you read the political situation, and what are the new priorities in the wake of the statements made by Abu Iyad [Fatah Central Committee member Salah Khalaf] in support of Iraq?

Ramadan: The Palestinian attitude cannot be separated from the Arab attitude. As an official of this country, I am not happy about the Arab attitude. If Arab officials do not rectify this attitude, it will be a brand of shame for the Arabs at this stage. It is really hurtful that certain Arab sides are supporting the Persian enemy. There has been nothing like it in Arab history, before or since Islam.

The Palestinian attitude is affected by the Arab attitude. I personally wish that the Palestinian position was distinguishable from the Arab position, because it represents the Palestinian revolution. Revolutionaries should support other revolutionaries. We hope they will in reality and practice realize it is unreasonable to believe the new Iranian rulers, the false mullahs, can be of any assistance to the Arabs and Palestinians. It is inconceivable that the Iranian rulers will liberate Palestine from its usurpers, who supply them with arms. These rulers talk about the liberation of Arab territory while they themselves are occupying Arab islands. The Iranians have ambitions in Kuwait, Iraq and Bahrain.

We hope the Palestinians will realize that the Iranian slogans about the liberation of Palestine are merely a gimmick meant to deceive and mislead the naive, and are also meant for internal consumption. Iraq considers the Palestine cause to be a central issue in its struggle and is the Palestinians' number one ally. The Palestinians are requested to adopt a stand more advanced than even that expressed by Abu Iyad.

AD-DUSTUR: What is your assessment of the Syrian position, and why has Hafiz al-Asad embarked on mediation now after refusing to do so at the Islamic summit? How does Iraq view this mediation?

Ramadan: It is easy to talk about Hafiz al-Asad's attitude, background and repeated acts of treason since he assumed an official position in the Syrian hierarchy. This is a long story and it has many aspects, some of which are known to the public while others are more private and more related to the party. That man lost all sense of shame when he sold the Golan Heights, betrayed the cause of Palestine and slaughtered Lebanon's patriots. He struck at the Palestinian revolution and allied himself with the Phalangists. He is one of those whose official statements and justifications incited the Iranian rulers to wage war on Iraq. He was supported and is still supporting [Kurdish leader] Barzani and others who have deviated from the revolution, as well as gangsters. He finances them and sends them to the northern region to engage in subversion.

Hafiz al-Asad is making it easier for the Iranian rulers to obtain arms and spare parts. Syria even provides Iran with food at the expense of what is needed for the Syrian people's local consumption. The aim of Al-Asad's Gulf tour was not to mediate the war, and it had nothing to do with the Golan issue, although the Golan issue was used as a cover. The policies of Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Bahrain, Qatar and the UAE are all pro-Arab policies and are not against the Arab consensus on the question of the Golan annexation. So why did he make the tour?

The answer is that one aim was to minimize the Gulf's and the peninsula's reaction to Iran's plot against Bahrain, because it is very important to Hafiz al-Asad that the Gulf states should not adopt a hostile attitude toward Iran. He tried to tell them that it was not true that Iran hatched a plot. Another aim was to try to export more financial aid for his regime. The Arab brothers, however, criticized his attitude when they met him and asked him to clearly define his position toward Iran. They had all the information about his support for Iran. When he found himself in an embarrassing position, having used the Golan annexation issue as a cover, he began to leak reports to the press giving the impression that he was paving the way for mediation to end the war between Iraq and Iran. His foreign minister Khaddam affirmed that everything was discussed except the Iraqi-Iranian war. This is the truth about Hafiz al-Asad's alleged mediation, cover and real aims.

AD-DUSTUR: Rafsanjani has confirmed that Syria and other Arab sides are supplying Iran with arms, ammunition and expertise. What is your opinion?

Ramadan: We consider the Arabs who help Iran against Iraq to be traitors.

AD-DUSTUR: After the plot against Bahrain, the Iranians said they would strike at the Gulf if Iran did not join the Gulf Cooperation Council. What is your comment?

Ramadan: Such quixotic statements by the Iranian rulers are now commonplace. These are their unsaleable goods. Iran's war against Iraq is a war against the entire Gulf. They know that if they defeated Iraq -- which is impossible -- the Gulf states would be within their reach. Iraq, however, wishes to emphasize that it will cut off the hand that assaults the Gulf states. Any aggression against the Gulf is an aggression against Iraq, and it is part of our pan-Arab mission to confront and strike it. This is our duty toward our Arab Gulf brothers.

AD-DUSTUR: Some Iraqi officials have visited Algeria. What is the nature of the talks held there, and is it true that Algeria is making efforts to stop the war?

Ramadan: Our relations with Algeria are good, but the question of mediation is not on the cards at present.

AD-DUSTUR: Hafiz al-Asad's regime is trying to revive the Barzani remnants. What is your information on that?

Ramadan: Hafiz al-Asad lends a supporting hand to anyone trying to undermine Iraq and its revolution. This is his way, and it does not surprise us. A man who cannot do good for his own countrymen cannot be good for others. He is rancorous and bears grudges. His army now consists of contingents surrounding Syrian towns, terrorizing innocent people, assaulting women and insulting the public. His support for the Barani remnants is not strange. He does it to harm Iraq, but in vain. He considers that an Iraqi victory over Iran would be a catastrophe for him. This is why he is doing his best to prevent it, because an Iraqi victory would mean the end of Hafiz al-Asad and his sectarian rule. That man, who makes all kinds of noises in the name of Arabism, has erased the name of the Iraqi Arab town of Al-Muhammarah from the map just to pacify the fake rulers of Tehran.

AD-DUSTUR: What is your comment on Israel's supply of arms to Iran, which Rafsanjani admits and Al-Asad denies?

Ramadan: Al-Asad claims that his struggle is for Palestine and that he does not want the Golan. The man uses this slogan to extort Arab money on the pretext that this is a state in confrontation with Israel. He also uses the same excuse to justify his treasonous relations with the Iranian rulers who are cooperating with Zionism. My comment is that a man who has no sense of shame will do anything.

AD-DUSTUR: How do you explain North Korea's support for Khomeyni? Do you see it as an expression of support for the Iraqi communists? There is information confirming that the commander of the attack on Khafajiyah was Korean and that he committed suicide when his plan failed.

Ramadan: I do not want to discuss Korea's attitude in detail. It has nothing to do with the Iraqi communists. The Korean position is unethical and shows what kind of moral standards the Koreans have. This attitude ran contrary to what we expected. It came as a surprise to us, confirming that those who claim to uphold principles are regrettably quite divorced from them. We supported Korea's struggle and gave it aid and loans. The Koreans have been unable to give one single reason for their attitude. When Arabs ask them about it, they deny it.

AD-DUSTUR: Is there any dialogue between Iraq and the Iranian opposition?

Ramadan: Iraq has had links with all factions of the Iranian opposition since the beginning of the war.

AD-DUSTUR: Is there an Iranian Army in Iraq under the command of the Iranian opposition?

Ramadan: No.

AD-DUSTUR: The Iranian chief of staff is a Zionist. Do you see this as a sign of stronger relations between Khomeyni and Israel, particularly after the secret visit to Tehran by former Israeli ambassador to Iran (Lou Yirani)?

Ramadan: The war has exposed the Iranian regime and disproved the slogans raised by Khomeyni and his clique to deceive and mislead the people. Their cooperation with Israel has not stopped. We knew this from the very beginning. However, no proof is needed any more -- not since the crash of the Argentine plane, since Rafsanjani's admission that the Israeli arms are in settlement of Israel's debts to Iran and that Iran is fighting Iraq on behalf of Israel, and since [Israeli Chief of Staff] Eytan's declaration that Israel is glad that Iraq is preoccupied with the war.

AD-DUSTUR: In view of Mitterrand's expected visit to Israel next month, how do you assess Iraqi-French relations, and is it true France has refused to supply Iraq with a reactor similar to that which was destroyed last June?

Ramadan: Our relations with France are based on fundamental principles linked to policies, not to administrations. We believe Iraqi-French and Arab-French relations are important. France has common interests with the Arabs. We are concerned less with the change of government than with the change of attitude. The new government has been eager to maintain cooperation. This was confirmed during [Deputy Prime Minister] Tariq 'Aziz's visit to France. We are aware of France's new relationship with Israel. As Arabs we would have liked this [Mitterrand's] visit not to take place. However, since they have decided to go ahead with it, we hope it will not produce results harmful to the Arabs. As for the question of the reactor, France has not refused to give us a new one.

AD-DUSTUR: Do you expect new attitudes in the Gulf, now that Khomeyni's ambitions in there have become clear?

Ramadan: We expect more unity of attitude, and we hope such unity will prevail throughout the Arab arena.

AD-DUSTUR: How do you view Israel's annexation of the Golan Heights? Do you see it as a result of Iraq's preoccupation with the war imposed on it by Iran, and do you expect a Zionist attack on the Palestinians in southern Lebanon?

Ramadan: Israel will exploit any situation to serve its interests. What is important is that the Arabs should be ready for confrontation under conditions of their own making, not conditions created by others.

AD-DUSTUR: A certain news agency has said that there are as many construction cranes in Iraq as there are palm trees. How does Iraq reconcile this development with war?

Ramadan: Since the war was imposed on us by the Persians, we have turned our economy into a war economy. When the war began we developed our economy to suit war circumstances. One of the reasons why aggression was committed against us was to stop Iraq's development. Before the war we sensed that certain circles were unhappy about our development plans and, as I have said, one of the aims of the war was to stop Iraq's development. If they hold up our development for 1 year, the results will be that we will lag 10 years behind the rest of the world. This is why, from the beginning of the war, we sought to double our military effort and at the same time double our development effort. During the 17 months of war more development projects were implemented than during an equivalent period before the war. During the war we achieved more than our normal level in ordinary times. We are continuing on this course and are benefiting from the circumstances of the war. These circumstances have not changed the principles in any big way. The war in fact put the development plans in their natural place.

AD-DUSTUR: Are the special brigades a part of the Popular Army or are they separate units? What kind of training do they receive, and how can such massive numbers of fighters be trained?

Ramadan: To talk about the special tasks brigades we should first talk about the background and development of the Popular Army. Since the beginning of the war the popular army has been the organizational structure for training and preparing the people in every way. The Popular Army, as is known, is a militia embodying as many people as possible, trained to carry out internal tasks in the place of the regular armed forces or the internal security forces. It does not operate in a vacuum. Although we have adopted the principle of a militia as a general framework, we have regarded the Popular Army units as special units with standards matching the best militias in the world as far as training and armament are concerned. This has been acknowledged by the world militias with which we cooperate closely. From the very first moments of the war the Popular Army intensively has assumed its domestic duties. On the third day of the war, the Popular Army units began to operate across the border on the orders of President Saddam Husayn. Although there was not need for them to operate across the border, the aim was to give them the opportunity and prepare them psychologically for bigger tasks.

The circumstances and expansion of the war have now led to the deployment of these units across the border. The Popular Army has been moving from one position to another and from one task to another since the beginning of the war. From protecting the rear of the armed forces at the beginning, these units have now moved alongside the armed forces on the front lines. This is the result of higher training standards and mutual confidence between the military commanders and these militia units. On the instructions of President Husayn these units have in the past 6 months been deployed in advanced positions with the armed forces. When the idea of volunteers was raised and a decision on it made, thousands came forward to have this honor. Although it is the duty of every citizen to fight for his country, the idea of having volunteers is not intended to force people to fight. The aim is to achieve certain objectives. We do not so much need fighters as we need to know who is prepared to fight relentlessly. It is merely a referendum process to refute the claims that the Iraqi people are tired of the war. The people's reply was stronger than any claim. It was dazzling, although I cannot say that we were surprised, because this has always been the caliber of the Iraqi people in decisive and difficult circumstances. This attitude has had its effect even on the production sectors.

Later it was decided to form the special tasks brigades within the Popular Army. Their members are volunteer commandos of a certain age and physical fitness. They receive special training somewhat different from that of the other sectors because their duties are different. Every mission on the battlefield is a special combat mission, but every group has a different task. For example, the commandos, the infantry, the armored units and the logistics units all have different tasks.

In brief, the special tasks brigades are Popular Army formations with a high standard of ability, armament and training. We will continue to expand in this sector.

As regards the Popular Army units at the front, more than 55,000 fighters are there permanently, and the flow continues. The Popular Army now has 400,000 fully equipped and fully trained fighters. We naturally apply the principle of rotation. Every 3 months new units replace other units and get the chance of participating in the battle.

ARMED FORCES ISSUES COMMUNIQUE ON FIGHTING

Communique No 617

JN151730 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1655 GMT 15 Feb 82

[Text] Baghdad, 15 Feb (INA) -- The military communique which was issued today by the Iraqi Armed Forces General Command put the Iranian losses during the past 24 hours at 67 killed and 1 tank, 2 armored personnel carriers, 1 gun, 6 vehicles, 1 rocket launcher, 6 observation posts, 2 stockpiles of hardware and 1 boat destroyed. The communique explained that the military operations took place in front of the Iraqi positions in the Bostan sector and in the area of Khafajiyah, Shush, Sumar, Abadan, Gilan-e Gharb and Ahvaz. The communique put the Iraqi sacrifices at 29 martyrs in all sectors and 1 tank and 3 vehicles damaged.

Communique No 617 issued by the Iraqi Armed Forces General Command: In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate.

With zeal and efficiency, the victorious forces of Saddam's al-Qadisiyah continued their activities in the operational sectors last night and today, with the following results:

1. Our forward units pounded an enemy concentration with various types of arms in the Bostan sector, killing 24 and destroying 1 tank, 2 vehicles and 3 observation posts.

2. Our units pounded enemy personnel and positions opposite their positions in the Khafajiyah area, killing 25 and destroying 4 vehicles, 2 stockpiles of hardware, 1 observation post, 1 rocket launcher, 1 boat and 1 armored personnel carrier.
3. Our units attacked an enemy troop concentration in front of their positions in the Shush area, killing six and destroying one armored personnel carrier.
4. Four were killed and one gun was destroyed in the Sumar area.
5. Three were killed and two observation posts were destroyed in the Abadan area.
6. Three were killed in the Gilan-e Gharb area.
7. Two were killed in the Ahvaz area.
8. At 1208 today, two enemy fighter planes infiltrated our territory aiming at Al-Bakr port. Our air defenses intercepted the enemy aircraft, forcing them to flee.

Thus, total known enemy losses amount to 67 killed and 1 tank, 2 armored personnel carriers, 1 gun, 6 vehicles, 1 rocket launcher, 6 observation posts, 2 stockpiles of hardware and 1 boat destroyed.

II. Our sacrifices:

- A. In personnel: 29 martyrs in all sectors.
- B. In equipment: one tank and three vehicles damaged.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 15 February 1982

Communique No 618

JN161624 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1605 GMT 16 Feb 82

[Text] Baghdad, 16 Feb (INA) -- In their activities during the past 24 hours Iraqi forces killed 119 Iranians and destroyed 3 personnel carriers, 2 guns, 3 vehicles, 1 excavator, 9 observation posts and 5 stockpiles of hardware.

Communique No 618 issued by the Armed Forces General Command states that military activities took place in the Bostan sector and the Abadan and Khafajiyah areas. Iraqi forces lost 19 martyrs in all sectors. The text of the communique follows:

In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate.

The sons of Iraq and the Arab nation continue their activities in the operational sectors. The results of their activities last night and today were as follows:

1. Our forward units struck enemy positions and concentrations opposite their positions in the Bostan sector with all kinds of weapons, killing 105 and destroying 3 personnel carriers, 1 gun, 1 excavator, 8 observation posts and 1 stockpile of hardware.
2. Our forward units struck enemy positions opposite their positions in the Abadan area, killing 14 and destroying 1 gun and 2 stockpiles of hardware.
3. Three vehicles, one observation post and one stockpile of hardware were destroyed in the Khafajiyah area.

Thus, total known enemy losses amount to 119 killed and 3 personnel carriers, 2 guns, 3 vehicles, 1 excavator, 9 observation posts and 5 stockpiles of hardware destroyed.

III. Our sacrifices: 19 martyrs in all sectors.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 16 February 1982

Communique No 619

JN171656 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1625 GMT 17 Feb 82

[Text] Baghdad, 17 Feb (INA) -- The Iraqi forces forward units in the Bostan sector have inflicted heavy losses on the Iranian enemy. Known enemy losses amounted to 74 killed and 1 personnel carrier, 4 observation posts and several enemy positions destroyed.

Iraqi communique No 619 issued this evening by the Armed Forces General Command states that all day today Iraqi fighter planes and helicopters raided Iranian positions and targets in the central and southern sectors of the operational sectors, scoring direct hits and inflicting heavy losses in life and equipment of the Iranian enemy. All our planes and helicopters returned safely to base.

The communique puts total known enemy losses during the past 24 hours at 87 killed and 1 tank, 1 personnel carrier, 5 vehicles, 1 rocket launcher, 5 observation posts, 1 stockpile of hardware and several enemy positions destroyed. The Iraqi forces lost 11 martyrs in all sectors and 3 vehicles and 1 excavator were damaged. The following is the text of the communique:

In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate.

Our valiant forces continued their activities in the operational sectors with the following results for last night and today:

1. Our forward units struck enemy positions and concentrations opposite their positions in the Bostan sector with all kinds of weapons, killing 74 and destroying 1 personnel carrier, 4 observation posts and several enemy positions.
2. Our fighter planes all day today raided enemy positions and targets in the central and southern sectors of the operational sector, scoring direct hits and inflicting heavy losses in life and equipment on the Iranian enemy. All our planes returned safely to base.
3. Our helicopters today raided enemy positions and equipment in the southern sector of the operational sector, inflicting heavy losses in life and equipment on the Iranian enemy and destroying one tank. All our helicopters returned safely to base.
4. Six were killed and one vehicle was destroyed in the Abadan area.
5. Four were killed in Sayf Sa'd.
6. Three killed and one rocket launcher and one observation post destroyed in the Khafajiyah area.
7. One vehicle and one stockpile of hardware were destroyed in the Sar-e Pol-e Zahab area.
8. One vehicle was destroyed in the Gilan-e Gharb area.
9. One vehicle was destroyed in the Ahvaz area.
10. One vehicle was destroyed in the Mehran area.

Thus, total known enemy losses amount to 87 killed and 1 tank, 1 personnel carrier, 5 vehicles, 1 rocket launcher, 5 observation posts, 1 stockpile of hardware and several enemy positions destroyed.

II. Our sacrifices:

- A. In personnel: 11 martyrs in all sectors.
- B. In equipment: three vehicles and one excavator damaged.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 17 February 1982

HAMID 'ALWAN DISCUSSES GULF WAR, GOLAN ISSUE

JN181028 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0945 GMT 18 Feb 82

[Text] Baghdad, 18 Feb (INA) -- Hamid 'Alwan, minister of state for foreign affairs, has stated that the provisions of the joint Arab defense treaty dictate that the Arab countries adopt a stand of solidarity with Iraq in its just war against the Iranian aggression.

In press statements published today by the newspaper, ATH-THAWRAH, 'Alwan said: The treaty behooves the Arab countries to adopt an explicit and frank attitude toward the Iraqi-Persian war, because this would reinforce Iraq's position. He explained that Iraq has officially asked that the Iraqi-Persian war be listed on the Arab summit conference agenda, adding that there has been a big response to the Iraqi request and the topic will be a main issue at the conference.

The minister said that Iraq had never refrained from giving material and military assistance in any ordeal affecting the Arab countries. He added: The only thing that concerns Iraq with regard to the war is the question being asked by the Iraqi citizens about the Arab brothers' stand on the war. The Arabs, according to the joint Arab defense treaty, must at least take a serious look at the war.

Minister Hamid 'Alwan said that Syria's stand on the annexation of the Golan Heights had shown its efficiency in confronting the Zionist aggression before seeking Arab help. He asserted that from an objective point of view there are no longer any states that are on the frontline and states that are not. The Zionist security strategy is all-embracing extending beyond Israel's alleged security borders to preventing Iraq or any other Arab state from acquiring nuclear technology. He made a point that the great Arab concern is represented by the Arab-Zionist confrontation.

MOROCCAN MINISTER ARRIVES FOR TRADE TALKS

JN171100 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0730 GMT 17 Feb 82

[Text] Baghdad, 17 Feb (INA) -- Moroccan Interior Minister Driss Basri arrived here at dawn today heading a delegation on a 2-day visit to Iraq. In statement to INA on his arrival, Basri said that he will hold talks with officials at the Ministry of Interior to bolster bilateral cooperation and the exchange of trade and expertise between the two ministries.

The delegation was received at the airport by Sa'dun Shakir, Revolution Command Council member and minister of interior; 'Adnan Ghaydan, interior under secretary, a number of officials and the Moroccan ambassador in Baghdad.

Agreement Signed

JN171410 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1345 GMT 17 Feb 82

[Excerpts] Baghdad, 17 Feb (INA) -- Iraqi Interior Minister Sa'dun Shakir and his Moroccan counterpart, Driss Basri, have signed an agreement for technical and administrative cooperation between their two ministries. In a speech on the occasion, Shakir expressed satisfaction with the fraternal meeting between officials of the two countries' Interior Ministries while Iraq is waging a holy war against the ignorant racist Persian enemy's aggression in defense of and on behalf of the eastern flank of the Arab nation.

Shakir praised the Arab masses' sense of responsibility, which was shown by their readiness to participate effectively in protecting the Arab rights that have been usurped by the Persian enemy, particularly by our people in fraternal Morocco.

AL-QASIM ON RELATIONS WITH FRANCE, ARMS ISSUE

JN161930 Monte Carlo Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1725 GMT 16 Feb 82

[Interview with Foreign Minister Marwan al-Qasim in Paris 16 February by Monte Carlo Radio correspondent Nabil Darwish -- recorded]

[Text] [Question] Yesterday you had a long meeting with your French counterpart, Claude Cheysson. Why are you visiting France at this particular time and what did you discuss during your long talk?

[Answer] This visit is in response to an invitation from France's External Relations Minister Claude Cheysson. During our talk we discussed bilateral relations and reviewed the general Middle East situation and the means to activate the European role in the current efforts to establish comprehensive, just and permanent peace on the basis of principles laid down by the international community. These principles include complete Israeli withdrawal and the recognition of the Palestinian Arab people's legitimate rights such as their right to self-determination and the establishment of their independent state on Palestinian soil which is now under Israeli occupation. It was a good occasion for us to hear the French side's full explanation of the statements on the Middle East which were made recently by senior French officials and received much attention.

[Question] French-Jordanian relations have been marred by an atmosphere of a lukewarmness -- of misunderstanding -- as described here in Paris following statements by French President Francois Mitterrand on the future Palestinian state. What was your impression after talking with the French side? Were you satisfied with the explanations you asked for?

[Answer] As I mentioned, the French have reiterated their commitment to the international resolutions particularly UN Security Council Resolution 242. Concerning recent statements by French officials, there has been a misunderstanding with regard to the concepts behind these statements. Our meeting last night made it clear that there is no possibility of establishing a Palestinian state except on those territories that are now occupied by Israel, namely the West Bank and the Gaza Strip.

[Question] Were you told these exact words, namely, a future Palestinian state on the West Bank and in Gaza?

[Answer] France's External Relations Minister Claude Cheysson asserted this. What is more important than this is the issue of security and the demands of some quarters who like to stress the Israeli security problem. We have explained Jordan's and the Arab nation's position that the security which Israel wanted to establish in the Western mind is only a justification for it to encroach on Arab rights and territories. With the Israeli view as recently explained by Israeli defense Minister General Sharon who said Israel's security requirements extend from Pakistan to the Arab Maghreb and Central Africa and that any military developments in these areas can be interpreted as hostile to Israel's concept of security.

[Question] Surely you have discussed French President Francois Mitterrand's visit to Israel next month. You have also discussed the president's visit to Jordan. What about these two visits?

[Answer] I would like to clearly explain that when his Majesty King Husayn visited France last August, he extended an invitation to His Excellency President Mitterrand to visit Jordan. We discussed this issue yesterday with the French minister. There will be continued contacts between the two sides in order to fix a suitable date in light of the engagements of the two leaders.

[Question] What about Jordanian-U.S. relations which have begun to improve since King Husayn's recent visit to the United States? Plans to supply Jordan with sophisticated U.S. weapons have been discussed. Israel is in an uproar and, in the United States and U.S. government a debate is underway. Can you tell us more about this?

[Answer] Of course, you know that since 1967 Jordan has been the principal target of Israeli threats. This has become more evident through the recurring aggression not only against Jordan but also against southern Lebanon, Beirut, Iraq and against all other Arab countries. This also shows that Jordan inevitably needs all the defensive weapons it can obtain to protect its airspace and land from any Israeli aggression. If there is rapprochement between Jordan and the United States, naturally there will be more understanding on the question of arms. I would like to clarify that basically Jordan needs weapons that will enable it to defend itself. Surface-to-air missiles are only defensive weapons which will protect Jordan, the Jordanian people and Jordanian airspace from recurring Israeli aggressions. As you know, during the past year Israel has carried out intensive air operations violating Jordanian, Saudi, Lebanese, Syrian and Iraqi airspace.

[Question] Will the United States supply Jordan with Hawk missiles or F-16's, or will the United States give in to the Israeli pressures and campaigns?

[Answer] We hope we will be able to obtain what can help us to defend ourselves. If you recall, some doors were closed in Jordan's face in the past when it tried to obtain such defensive weapons. When these doors were closed, Jordan went to other sources to fulfill its commitments to secure its rights, people and dignity by obtaining the minimum defensive capability to protect its territories.

[Question] Despite U.S. friendship or understanding it has been said that Washington has made remarks to or criticized Jordan such as when you decided to send Jordanian volunteers to Iraq, has the U.S. administration really approached you on this subject or has it opposed it?

[Answer] I believe Jordan's policy is crystal clear to both the East and the West. I do not believe any country has a right to interfere in the question of a sovereign Jordanian decision. When his majesty King Husayn called on the Jordanian people to volunteer to fight side by side with the fraternal Iraqi people, he did so because he was convinced as the leader of Jordan that Iraq must be supported morally and materially because Iraq is protecting the Arab nation's future generations, their dignity and honor.

[Question] King Husayn said a few days ago that the basic cause of the Syrian-Jordanian differences is Jordan's position on the Iraqi-Iranian war. How do you view the future of Syrian-Jordanian relations and the developments in this region?

[Answer] The differences between the two fraternal countries are based on two points: The first point is, as (?)I said, that Jordan will never relinquish its pan-Arab role vis-a-vis any Arab country if this country is exposed to aggression from any side. The second point concerns Lebanon and the Lebanese situation. We want to work within the Arab nation to create stability and to return Lebanon to its natural position so it can take its place among the states in the Arab nation. The process of disintegration and dismemberment in this fraternal country will continue to be a justification for Israel and others to exploit this illogical and unnatural situation.

[Question] About the slogan of nonintervention in the affairs of other states, do you believe that both Syria and Jordan are applying this principle to the letter?

[Answer] I think that throughout Jordan's long history with its Arab neighbors, it has been clear that Jordan has proven its commitment to nonintervention in their internal affairs. If there were any interventions in the past, I would like to recall that it was Jordan that was the victim. As you know, Jordan lost a prime minister in the early 1960's as a result of outside interference in its affairs. Another prime minister was martyred as a result of other Arab schemes. Nevertheless, Jordan will continue to participate on the national, pan-Arab and moral level. Jordan will always despise such policies. It is not possible and nobody has the right to say that Jordan will ever think of interfering in the internal affairs of any Arab states even if Jordan's relations with these states are not always satisfactory.

[Question] Thank you, Your Excellency.

CROWN PRINCE HASAN DISCUSSES IRAN-IRAQ WAR

JN151035 Baghdad INA in Arab'c 0800 GMT 15 Feb 82

[Text] Baghdad, 15 Feb (INA) -- Crown Prince Hasan has said that Arab support for Iraq in its war with Iran should not only be verbal but the Arab nation should also do all it can to help.

In an interview published here today in the newspaper AL-JUMHURIYAH, he added that the threat from the eastern flank of the Arab homeland -- which is now the Persian threat -- is linked to world politics. He said the attempt to play a proxy role for this or that side is linked with feeble regional concepts aimed at fragmenting the region into weak entities. The crown prince stressed that unless the Arab nation firmly confronts these threats, its voice will be weak internationally. He added that the situation requires us all to adopt a manly stand in order to safeguard our common Arab identity in the face of the joint challenge from the West represented by the Zionist advance and challenge and from the East represented by the Persian advance, which is part of the Zionist scheme.

Prince Hasan warned that the positions taken by some Arab countries have coincided with the Zionist ambitions on many issues, mainly backing Iran in its war with Iraq and against the Arab and his national identity. Prince Hasan dismissed claims that it would be better for Jordan to direct its fighters' guns toward Palestine, saying: This is a fallacy intended to change the Arab-Zionist conflict into an Arab-Arab conflict within the Arab house and using Arab means. The crown prince added that Iraq constitutes a strategic depth for Jordan and vice versa. He asked: How can the Arab territory be liberated without a strong triumphant Iraq? How can Iraq be asked to fight alongside Arab causes while we simply stand by and watch it fight a just war for 1 and 1/2 years against an enemy which wants to humiliate the nation and usurp both its territory and its people.

He stressed that the cornerstone for a free and dignified Arab move in this region is that of cooperation with Iraq and support for its just cause. He expressed the hope that the humble Jordanian contribution will help the Iraqis and benefit from the high moral existing in fraternal Iraq. He said that a state which has managed in 1 and 1/2 years to control territory and at the same time run its internal affairs is a state worthy of respect and appreciation. He said that he will soon visit Iraq as a volunteer in the Al-Yarmuk forces, which were formed by King Husayn to support Iraq and to foil the enemies' attempts to disrupt the nation.

PRESS COMMENTS ON AIMS ISSUE, U.S. POLICY

Alleged Shift

JN170737 Amman Jordan TIMES in English 17 Feb 82 p 4

[Editorial: "The Funny Season"]

[Text] We don't think we've seen as funny a show in the past, oh, 2,000 years, as we are witnessing today between the United States and Israel over an alleged shift in American Mideast policy. The issue that has got Israel fired up and frothing is, not unusually for Israel, an imaginary one -- the supposed American willingness to sell advanced Hawk missiles and F-16 fighters to Jordan. Never mind that Jordan has not asked for these weapons. In the logic of American-Israeli minds, reality does not intrude on one's fantasies.

The Israelis have always acted on the basis that they must be the strongest military power between the Rhine and the Yangtze Rivers. Indeed, only a few weeks ago, Israeli Defence Minister Ari'el Sharon told a lecture audience that Israel's security concerns include territories as far away as Pakistan and Turkey. So it is not surprising that Begin government is frantic about possible defence developments in Jordan.

The real question that must be dealt with by the Americans and the Israelis is that of Israel's long-term prospects in the Middle East. It cannot go on forever existing as a militaristic jamboree full of American weaponry and propped up by a strange combination of American financial aid and diplomatic subservience. The concept of perpetual strategic superiority for Israel -- the very concept that the American Government is committed to by force of the statements of its President -- is the guarantor of perpetual conflict in the area. We look forward to the day when the Americans might use their power to bring justice and a sense of egalitarian humanism to the area, by helping to resolve the Palestine issue in a fair manner. Is this what the Israelis fear, and why they shout so rabidly this week?

Decisions Made in Tel Aviv

JN180934 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 0500 GMT 18 Feb 82

[From the press review]

[Text] Under the headline "The Required Arab Response To Confront the Enemies" AKHBAR AL-USBU' says: What the Arabs must understand from the U.S. persistence in maintaining Israeli military superiority in the region is that Washington will not give up on its partiality and support for the Zionist enemy because it is a partner to all Israel's aggressive acts and practices in the region.

Facts have proven that U.S. decisions are made in Tel Aviv and announced in Washington. Any other explanation of any possible changes in the U.S. policy toward the Middle East in general and the Arab-Israeli dispute in particular while the Arab ranks are not united and their disputes are not ended once and for all is merely an illusion and self-deception.

The problem is not that of a sophisticated arms deal with Jordan proposed by the U.S. defense secretary, but rather a U.S. attempt to terrify the region with all means and place it under joint U.S.-Israeli hegemony. The Persian regime's coordination with Israel in opposing Jordan's obtaining sophisticated weapons is part of its role in attacking the eastern flank of the Arab homeland after Israel is reassured of its domination over the western flank with the support and help of Washington and the absence of solidarity between the frontline countries.

What Washington, Tel Aviv and Tehran must understand is that Jordan's purchase of weapons is a settled matter because it is purely a Jordanian decision and there are many, diversified and guaranteed sources of weapons.

We now hope that the Arab response will be as great as the challenge and that the Arabs will realize that military superiority in the region is the factor that will determine the battle. Moreover, the Arabs are dutybound to speed up the building of their intrinsic power and unifying their ranks because these are the only guarantees for confronting the Israeli military power and ultimately defeating aggression and aborting the U.S.-Israeli plot to dominate the whole region.

Contradictory U.S. Policies

JN180820 Amman Jordan TIMES in English 18 February 82 p 4

[Editorial: "Amazin'!"]

[Text] The letter sent by United States President Ronald Reagan to Israeli Prime Minister Menahem Begin two days ago is a document that should be included in the great hall of the Ripley's Believe It or Not Museum. It is, all in all, a rather astounding piece of work. Mr. Reagan assures Mr. Begin that the United States is "determined to see that Israel's qualitative technological edge is maintained," Israel remains America's friend and ally. However, I believe it is in the interest of both our countries for the United States to enhance its influence with other states in the region." As the famous American baseball manager Casey Stengel would have said, if he were alive today: "Amazin'!"

The underlying contradiction in the American desire to keep Israel as the strongest Asian power since Genghis Khan while also improving ties with Arab states is, in the end, incompatible, intellectually untenable and beyond the comprehension of those of us who have been, and would like to remain, friends and partners of the United States in our common quest for a life of peace, dignity and prosperity for all our people. But how can even we so-called "moderates" remain unoffended and unastounded in the face of such basic contradictions as have been so clearly spelled out in Mr. Reagan's letter to Mr. Begin?

If the American people are willing to be abused by this sort of nonsense, the people of Jordan and the Arab world are not. The problem at hand is not Jordan's arms or Israel's security. The problem is a woefully contradictory American policy in the Middle East that cannot limp along much further on its present false basis. If American policymakers do not understand this fact, Arab policymakers do.

Further Press Comment

JN170955 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 0515 GMT 17 Feb 82

[Press Review]

[Text] Under the headline "With All Means We Protect Ourselves," today's newspaper AR-RA'Y writes: Yesterday the U.S. administration, represented by President Reagan, the Pentagon spokesman and the official White House deputy spokesman, reassured Israel that the United States does not intend to supply Jordan with sophisticated weapons and that Washington is eager to maintain Israel's quantitative and qualitative military superiority.

This indicates that the U.S. administration wanted to stress to Israel the continuation of its traditional practices in the region. This assertion came after the Israeli agitation in the wake of reports on possible U.S. supplies of mobile Hawk missiles and F-16 fighter planes to Jordan.

Whether the U.S. officials' statements mean going back on this deal or confirm that such a deal does not exist, the result in both cases does not change one bit Jordan's commitment to ensure the safety of its territory and airspace with all possible means.

It goes without saying that this commitment is firm and continuous as it is a national and pan-Arab commitment which depends on Jordan's decision first and last. The U.S.-Israeli debate -- no matter what the result -- cannot at all dissuade Jordan from carrying out its sacred duty toward its territory and airspace as well as toward the Arab nation. Jordan knows quite well how to perform these duties and safeguard its sovereignty.

The Israeli military superiority was and is still the reason for Israeli belligerency in the region. Maintaining this superiority means maintaining tension, instability and exacerbating dangers in the region. The U.S. commitment to maintain Israel's military superiority must be met by an Arab commitment to build up the intrinsic Arab power with all available means so that a strategic balance can be achieved to curb the Israeli aggressors and enable the region to enjoy real peace based on justice.

Under the headline "Another New U.S. Fall," AD-DUSTUR says: The United States has announced that it has not changed its policy toward Israel and that it has no plans to sell sophisticated weapons to Jordan. President Reagan has also asserted his country's determination to defend the security of Israel and that the U.S. pledges toward Tel Aviv are the basic principles of the U.S. policy in the Middle East. This U.S. reply to the Israeli clamor was actually expected right from the beginning because we have always been used to the fact that every time the United States gets one step closer to the Arabs it retreats with bigger steps under Zionist pressures and under the impact of the Zionist influence which governs the policy of successive U.S. administrations.

AD-DUSTUR says: We are now witnessing a humiliating U.S. retreat before the Israeli campaign and Begin's threats. Washington's response to this campaign was quick to assert the U.S. commitment and determination to defend the security of Israel and to fulfill the U.S. pledges to guarantee Israel's military superiority both qualitatively and quantitatively.

This battle seems to be a test of power between Washington and Tel Aviv rather than a battle related to Jordan or supplying Jordan with arms. Jordan, as U.S. Defense Secretary Weinberger has admitted, has not actually asked to be supplied with U.S. weapons. It is obvious that Washington has failed the test and has moved back on its offer -- which was made voluntarily -- under pressure from the Zionist lobby.

Jordan will not stop the serious work to obtain sophisticated weapons to build its intrinsic power. There are deals on which agreement has actually been reached. Jordan rejects the theory of Israeli military superiority because it enables the Zionist enemy to impose its concept of peace, which is in fact complete capitulation to Israel's ambitions and expansionist policy. Therefore, Jordan, supported by the Arab brothers, will seek to obtain the weapons it wants regardless of this or that side's satisfaction or dissatisfaction.

Therefore, we as Arabs consider what has happened as a useful test from which we must take lessons and examples in order to reassess our stands and dealings with others in light of the results of the battle between Washington and Tel Aviv. This battle has revealed Israel's haughtiness, intransigence and arrogance as well as the unsteadiness of the U.S. stand -- its readiness to quickly retreat and completely respond to all that Israel wants; its willingness to yield to the Israeli will even at the expense of vital U.S. interests and of exposing security and peace to danger.

U.S. ENVOY DENIES EVACUATION ADVISORY GIVEN

NC181019 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1000 GMT 18 Feb 82

[Text] The secretary general of the Ministry of Foreign and Expatriates Affairs, Ambassador Kasrawan Labaki, has said that U.S. Ambassador to Lebanon Robert Dillon contacted him by telephone this morning to confirm that the report published in some papers regarding the U.S. Embassy's advice to U.S. nationals to be ready to leave Lebanon if requested is untrue.

ADF, LOCAL MILITIA CONTINUE TRIPOLI SKIRMISH

NC180757 Paris AFP in English 0739 GMT 18 Feb 82

[Text] Beirut, 18 Feb (AFP) -- The Syrian-dominated Arab Deterrent Force confirmed today it clashed with armed groups for five hours last night in the northern Lebanese port city of Tripoli. There were no immediate reports on casualties.

The Arab force said in a statement it intervened to stop a clash between armed groups in Tripoli's Qubbah neighborhood, and managed to restore calm. It gave no further details.

Rivalries between pro-Palestinian and pro-Syrian groups in Tripoli led to numerous exchanges throughout 1981. The last significant incident was in December, when a car explosion killed 12 people and injured 80.

VOL NOTES LARGE PALESTINIAN TROOP MOVEMENTS

NC171547 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1515 GMT 17 Feb 82

[Text] A voice of Lebanon correspondent has learned that about 1,000 armed Palestinians were moved last night to Ash-Shuf and occupied positions and buildings located between Al-Jiyah and As-Sa'diyat. PLO chairman Yasir 'Arafat last night went to the area to inspect the military deployment of these forces.

VOP DETAILS ISRAELI MILITARY CONCENTRATIONS

NC180911 (Clandestine) Voice of Palestine in Arabic 0645 GMT 18 Feb 82

[Text] A responsible source of the joint forces said yesterday that the Zionist enemy has asked the Senegalese forces serving in the UNIFIL to leave their positions in the central sector. The source added that the commander of the Senegalese contingent in Al-Ghanduriyah village has submitted a report on this to the UNIFIL command center in An-Naqurah. The source further said that the volume of Zionist military concentrations has noticeably increased in the eastern sector, while Israeli forces in the Al-Khiyan Valley have been beefed up with long-range 175-mm and 150-mm artillery. The Zionists have also set up Hawk missiles in the Al-Mari, Al-Majdiyah and Dayr Mimas villages.

The source said that last night Israeli military movements took place in the vicinity of Jabal ash-Shaykh. The source concluded by saying that the Zionist enemy has called up reserve troops and has also evacuated the inhabitants of the settlements near the Syrian border. Therefore, the joint forces' command has taken all the military precautions to face any aggression that might take place in the area.

More on Troop Movements

NC171205 (Clandestine) Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1115 GMT 17 Feb 82

[Text] According to information from southern Lebanon, press reports in Beirut say that the Zionist forces recently massed from three to four divisions along the Lebanese border and that a mechanized brigade entered the occupied border strip last Monday night. There have been increased warnings from several quarters that the Zionist enemy is preparing to wage an attack against southern Lebanon soon. The reports add that Israeli field artillery is firmly emplaced in the Al-Jumruk area, in the occupied Al-Khiyam township plain.

IRANIAN DELEGATION TOURS 'SOUTHERN FRONT'

LD171812 Tehran IRNA in English 1634 GMT 17 Feb 82

[Text] Beirut, 17 Feb (IRNA) -- The Iranian mission to Lebanon headed by Hojjat ol-Eslam Shabestari, met and conferred this morning with the head of the Lebanese parliament Mr. Kamil al-As'ad. The two spoke about matters of mutual interest, the situation of southern Lebanon, the Zionist regime's aggressions and the assistance of the people of southern Lebanon against the Zionist regime.

In that meeting, the Iranian mission, once again declared its support for the people of southern Lebanon.

In conclusion, the two stressed the solidarity of the two brotherly nations of Iran and Lebanon.

Also, the Iranian mission participated in a special ceremony held by the Amal movement in Lebanon on the occasion of the third anniversary of the Islamic revolution of Iran.

After the ceremonies, a member of the Lebanese Ulema praised the Islamic revolution of Iran and attacked the Saudi regime for its policies promoting the massacre of the Shi'i Muslims of Lebanon and of Palestinians.

The Iranian mission also visited the southern parts of Lebanon. Today, after visiting Sidon, the mission went to Al Aria [IRNA spelling] and was welcomed there by a member of the leadership council of the Amal movement.

Abu Hassan, who described to the Iranian mission the situation of the Amal movement in their fight against Iraqi Ba'thist mercenaries [words indistinct] and met with the head of the battalion of the Lebanese and Palestinians there, Mr Mardan. Mardan said he had faith in the relations of the Islamic revolution of Iran with Palestine.

After that, the head of the Iranian mission spoke to the joint forces there, conveying the greetings of Imam Khomeyni.

Following that, the mission left for Kafr Tibnit and arrived in the Nabi al-Husayn Husaynayn. An Amal member spoke on the mission of Lebanese Muslim leader, Musa Sadr, and said the progress of Islamic Iran was that of southern Lebanon. Then, the Iranian mission went to the Shaghif [IRNA spelling] front, the frontline in the border areas at present in the hands of the renegade forces of Sa'd Haddad. Hojjat ol-Eslam Shabestari advised the soldiers, encouraging them to fight the Zionists and spoke for them on the issue of jihad in Islam and hoped for their success.

FURTHER REPORTAGE ON DISTURBANCES IN HAMAH

Intermittent Gunfire Heard

NC171320 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1215 GMT 17 Feb 82

[Text] According to reports from Hamah today, the situation in the city is still disturbed and bursts of gunfire and explosions can still be heard intermittently. The families of Syrian officers are continuing to be moved outside the city.

Arms to Muslim Brotherhood

NC171306 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1215 GMT 17 Feb 82

[Text] According to information from an Arab capital, about 5,000 men of the Syrian Army have broken away from the Syrian Army during the past week in the wake of the incidents in Hamah and some other Syrian towns.

According to this information, heavy weapons have been transported to the Muslim Brotherhood groups by an organization.

It was reported today that special Syrian units have established observation posts on the Lebanese-Syrian border, particularly in the mountainous area, to observe weapons smuggling and escaping soldiers. The reports say that a number of these soldiers fled from northern Lebanon and Al-Biqa' and that others have joined a Palestinian organization.

Searches Continue

JN171330 Monte Carlo Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1300 GMT 17 Feb 82

[Text] An informed source in Damascus has stated that the situation in Hamah is still as it was and that the city continues to be besieged. No one can enter or leave the city while search operations continue for weapons caches and for fugitives from justice. The road passing outside Hamah linking Damascus to Aleppo is open.

Brotherhood Weakens

JN171617 Monte Carlo Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1600 GMT 17 Feb 82

[Text] Various sources in Beirut report that the combing operations in Hamah continued today for the 17th consecutive day, interspersed by some fierce clashes between Syrian forces and members of the Muslim Brotherhood. The above sources, however, report that the Muslim Brotherhood's pockets of resistance are weakening day by day.

The Aleppo-Hamah-Homs Road has been open since last Sunday.

Eyewitnesses on Fighting

NC171733 Paris AFP in English 1725 GMT 17 Feb 82

[Text] Beirut, 17 Feb (AFP) — The Syrian clean-up operation in the northern city of Hamah went into its 17th day today with heavy artillery fire and clashes between troops and rebels led by Moslem Brotherhood militants, travellers from the area reported here.

The travellers said that Hamah was covered with a heavy pall of smoke from fires and explosions and the sound of cannon could be heard as late as yesterday evening.

Hamah was completely encircled by tanks and artillery was positioned in the surrounding fields, they said.

The major Syrian highway going from Damascus north to Aleppo via Homs and Hamah was still open to traffic, and the few vehicles to be seen included trucks full of civilians fleeing the city with packages of personal belongings, the travellers said.

They said that the exact number of casualties was not known. The wounded were treated in Homs, Aleppo and Damascus hospitals.

The travellers reported that they saw a number of bulldozers at work in a large cemetery in the outskirts of Hamah and speculated that mass graves were being dug.

Observers in Beirut reporting on the Syrian incidents all said that the pockets of resistance in Hamah appeared to be losing strength, and that it seemed inevitable that they would soon be wiped out.

Various eyewitnesses said that the troubles began in the northern city on February 2, with fundamentalist Moslem Brotherhood militants killing a score of local officials of the ruling Ba'th Party and dragging their bodies through the streets.

They later occupied the mosques of the city and appealed for a holy war from the balconies of the minarets, the sources said, sparking off the worst incidents in the recent history of Syria.

Warning Against Planes

NC171937 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1915 GMT 17 Feb 82

[Text] According to arrivals from Syria this evening, the sound of intermittent explosions continues to be heard in Hamah and that clashes in some interior quarters are continuing.

According to reports reiterated this evening, a Syrian Army group stationed near the Hamah airport has threatened to open antiaircraft fire at Syrian planes if such planes are used in attacking certain positions in the city of Hamah.

SOVIET AMBASSADOR DECLARES USSR TREATY SUPPORT

JN171305 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1240 GMT 17 Feb 82

[Text] Damascus, 17 Feb (SANA) -- The USSR ambassador in Damascus has asserted his country's firm and principled support for Syria under their friendship and cooperation treaty on the basis of its stands of supporting all Arab issues and continuing to assist and support these just issues in all fields and at all levels.

The ambassador made this statement when he called on People's Assembly Speaker Mahmud az-Zu'bi here today to convey the congratulations of the USSR Supreme Soviet on the beginning of the assembly's third legislative term.

The ambassador praised Syria's struggle stands under the leadership of President Hafiz al-Asad and stressed that Syria constitutes the peak of all liberation movements in the region of Arab struggle. He said: We in the USSR consider Syria a pioneering and progressive country leading the march of struggle against imperialism, colonialism and reaction.

Assembly Speaker Mahmud az-Zu'bi expressed great appreciation to the USSR for its stands in support of all Arab issues and of the Palestine question in particular. He stressed the importance of consolidating and strengthening parliamentary ties between the two countries and the need to coordinate between the two countries, especially in international parliamentary circles.

It was agreed at the end of the meeting to consolidate and strengthen parliamentary relations, which are a part of the strategic relationship between the two friendly countries, including exchanging visits and expertise and coordinating parliamentary stands.

AL-ASAD RECEIVES LEBANON'S KAMIL AL-AS'AD

JN171730 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1615 GMT 17 Feb 82

[Excerpts] President Hafiz al-Asad received at 1500 this afternoon Kamil al-As'ad, chairman of the Lebanese Chamber of Deputies. The meeting was attended by People's Assembly Speaker Mahmud az-Zu'bi.

Kamil al-As'ad arrived in Damascus at 1400 today to assume his post as the president of the Arab Parliamentary Union [APU] whose headquarters is in Damascus.

Al-As'ad said: The aim of my visit to Damascus is to begin my work as the APU president, to learn about the union affairs and employees.

My visit to Syria, he added, is traditional because of the strong ties between the peoples and countries. We have frequently underlined, and are still, the importance of the two peoples' inseparable relations and the unity of their objectives. We will continue to work to further deepen these relations within the framework of the national and patriotic interests.

Replying to a question, Al-As'ad said that the decision to annex the Golan is not aimed against Syria alone but against the entire Arab nation and the Arab cause. This decision constitutes a blatant violation of UN legitimacy, Charter and resolutions.

Further on Meeting

JN172005 Damascus Domestic Television Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 17 Feb 82

[Text] President Hafiz al-Asad received at 1500 this afternoon Kamil al-As'ad, chairman of the Lebanese Chamber of Deputies. The meeting was attended by People's Assembly Speaker Mahmud az-Zu'bi.

The talks dealt with the security and political situation in fraternal Lebanon and ways of healing Lebanon's problems in order to face the Zionist threats against southern Lebanon.

The two sides underlined the importance of the distinguished fraternal relations between the two countries to help Lebanon achieve national detente and protect the unity of territory and people to serve the interests of Lebanon, Syria and the Arab nation. The talks also dealt with the situation in the region.

Kamil al-As'ad praised Syria's stands and steadfastness. He asserted that attempts to provoke Syria are actually aimed against the Arab's steadfastness will. He said that Syria's steadfastness and constant determination embody the Arab nation's real will.

The two sides also touched on the discussions and resolutions from the latest meeting of the Arab Parliamentary Union's council.

AL-ASAD RECEIVED IRAQI COMMUNIST PARTY LEADER

JN141647 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1615 GMT 14 Feb 82

[Text] President Hafiz al-Asad received at 1330 today 'Aziz Muhammad, secretary general of the Iraqi Communist Party. Talks during the meeting dealt with the current Arab situation in light of the hostile imperialist and Zionist plots, the attempts to divert the Arab states and peoples from their battle against the Zionist enemy and its supporters and the weakness in the anti-imperialist and anti-Zionist front caused by the Iraqi-Iranian war. Talks also dealt with the Iraqi nationalist forces, their role of struggle and the importance of promoting this role. The need to continue exerting efforts to strengthen ties among the anti-imperialist and anti-Zionist forces in the region and the world and to intensify the struggle against the Zionist enemy was stressed.

IRAQI COMMUNISTS ASSAIL KING HUSAYN'S MOVES

JN170413 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 2315 GMT 16 Feb 82

[Text] Damascus -- The Political Bureau of the Iraqi Communist Party has condemned the provocative measures taken by the Jordanian king to send volunteers to Iraq to take part in the war waged by Saddam against the friendly Iranian people. The Political Bureau affirmed that this serious step is an attempt to repress the will of our people in their courageous and arduous struggle to overthrow the Iraqi regime.

In a statement yesterday, an Iraqi Communist Party Political Bureau spokesman said that the official declaration of some reactionary Arab regimes to send forces to Iraq affirms the widespread rejection of this war of aggression by our Iraqi people and army. The spokesman said that this serious step will only lead to the shedding of more blood by our Iraqi people due to this oppressive war waged by the Iraqi regime on behalf of world imperialism headed by the United States in order to stifle the aspirations of the people in the region. The spokesman said that these measures are taken at a time when U.S. imperialism and its proteges in the region, particularly the aggressive Zionists, are endeavoring to escalate their aggressive activities to repress the will of the Palestinian people and the Lebanese National Movement and to break the resistance of the confrontation and steadfastness states in their struggle to foil the imperialist, Zionist and reactionary plots against the Arab liberation movement.

The spokesman described these measures as an attempt to divert the attention of the masses from the basic threat facing our people, the U.S.-Zionist threat, to sow discord among Arab ranks and sap the ability of the Arab masses to confront the dark plots and resist them. The spokesman called on all the good forces in the Arab homeland to condemn, expose and stop these serious, aggressive measures against the Arab people, against the Arab liberation movement and against the anti-imperialist, anti-Zionist and antireactionary movement in the region -- measures that are aimed at Arabizing and then internationalizing the Saddam war and subsequently threatening the region's security and the prosperity and the peace of its people.

TERRITORIAL WATERS EXTENDED TO UN LIMIT

JN171515 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1455 GMT 17 Feb 82

[Text] Damascus, 17 Feb (SANA) -- An official Foreign Ministry source stated today that Syria remains committed to the limits of the territorial waters as defined by the draft Law of the Sea currently under discussion in the United Nations, if that law is internationally ratified. This statement was made on the issuance of Law No 37 for 1982 which extended Syrian territorial waters to 35 nautical miles.

VOL on Extension

NC151341 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1215 GMT 15 Feb 82

[Text] Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad has issued a decree, which he has conveyed to international and Lebanese quarters, extending the territorial waters opposite Latakia to 50 miles instead of 20 miles in reply to Israel's annexation of the Golan Heights. The Syrian decree is designed to force foreign ships to pass through Syrian territorial waters according to their new limits.

POPULAR ORGANIZATIONS DENOUNCE U.S. POLICY

JN180518 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0415 GMT 18 Feb 82

[Excerpt] Syrian provinces -- Syrian citizens represented by their popular organizations, trade unions, societies and groups continue to express their tumultuous denunciation of U.S. interference in Syria's domestic affairs and the current campaign of lies and contentions against our country. The citizens demonstrated their feelings in their cables to President Hafiz al-Asad. They also expressed admiration for Syria's brave stands led by the president's wise policy.

COMMENTARY VIEWS THREATS FROM ENEMIES

JN121146 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 12 Feb 82

[Station commentary]

[Text] Syria's enemies, particularly the United States, are presently using all means to respond to the UN General Assembly resolution that isolated Israel from the rest of the world and exposed the real motives behind the U.S. veto at the UN Security Council. The important resolution of the UN General Assembly and the wide-scale Arab and international campaign of solidarity with Syria have generated numerous aggressive reactions in different forms: once as direct and clear threats against us, another time as a vicious campaign of false fabrications and lies or as a direct warning to Syria of the grave consequences of maintaining its national and patriotic policy.

The hostile trumpets echo these threats in obvious coordination. Hence, we have been hearing frank statements announcing that Syria now constitutes a great threat to Israel and to the Camp David front as a whole. Amidst this atmosphere of hostility, Reagan, Mubarak and Begin are directing all their malice toward this country and are employing all possible campaigns of threats and warnings in an attempt to move Syria so they can penetrate the firm Syrian Arab position.

This campaign just reveals their helplessness in the face of Syrian firmness and exposes the state of confusion among their ranks since the issuance of the UN General Assembly resolution. This resolution, which is indeed a Syrian victory that also belongs to all the Arabs, has dealt more than one blow to the Zionist annexation law and to the U.S. veto. This resolution is actually a strong blow dealt to the Camp David parties' accomplishments in the Arab region. Furthermore, the resolution has been a strong blow to the European preparations which were intended to give impetus to the Camp David policy. Therefore, their malice is as strong as the blow they have received.

Hatred of Syria is the common factor among the enemies. They are all threatening us and fabricating lies and delusions against us. They thought they might succeed here after they failed at the UN General Assembly in obliterating an important, historic international resolution and eradicating a worldwide reaction to the UN General Assembly's resolution of the Golan. Despite all that, Arab and international reactions have not ceased but continued stronger than before, thus dwarfing all the suspect tours of U.S. officials in the region and stunting all the campaigns of malice and hatred against Syria. Syria's steadfastness and determination to continue its national and patriotic policy have destroyed all campaigns of lies, fabrications and instigations. Syria will continue to raise high the torch of truth in the region and in the entire world in order to expose aggressive moves, reveal enemy intentions and declare to the entire world that we will continue to go forward firmly toward victory and liberation fearing no threats and avoiding any hesitation.

The Arab foreign ministers conference is acquainted with the various positive reactions to the UN General Assembly resolution. This conference also possesses an important international weapon to face Israel's aggression and the U.S. support for this aggression. Hence, since the world's countries have carried out their duties at the United Nations, then the Arabs must now know how to employ these accomplishments in the service of that battle of fate against Israel and its allies.

We are confident that the battle we are waging will certainly end in achieving our patriotic objectives. This battle cannot continue toward its objectives unless we possess a free will paying no attention to enemy pressures and avoiding any reluctance. No power can usurp our free will. We have succeeded at the UN General Assembly and we will continue our efforts not only to achieve a victory for Syria alone but for the cause of Palestine and the entire Arab nation as well.

SHAMIR: REAGAN LETTER 'A CHANGE FOR THE BETTER'

TA180640 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 18 Feb 82

[Text] Foreign Minister Shamir says the letter from President Reagan to Prime Minister Begin in the wake of the controversy over the possible sales of advanced weapons to Jordan is a change for the better. Shamir talked to reporter Alan Ben-'Ami on his return from Geneva last night.

[Begin recording] [Shamir] We were worried by some tendencies and by some voices coming from a certain plane in the Middle East, but now I think there is a change in the situation -- a change for the better.

[Ben-'Ami] Mr Shamir, President Reagan didn't say in his letter that the United States won't sell arms to Jordan. He simply said that if such a deal should come through, Israel's position would also be taken into effect. How do you view this?

[Shamir] Well, this statement is very important and I think it is very positive. We will have to follow the situation and act if it will be necessary.

[Question] If America were to offer compensation to Israel for such a deal, would Israel still be opposed to such a deal?

[Answer] Of course we are opposed to any sales of (?firearms) at this moment to any country in the region. We are convinced that the Middle East countries are not in need of new arms; they are in need of peace. Any supply of new arms will not influence Jordan in a positive direction. [end recording]

MA'ARIV: REAGAN MESSAGE APPEASES GOVERNMENT

TA171239 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 17 Feb 82 p 2

[Report by political correspondent Ilan Kefir]

[Excerpt] U.S. President Ronald Reagan's message to Prime Minister Menachem Begin has appeased Jerusalem and it is thought that the United States has now given up its intention to supply modern offensive weapons to Jordan, a senior political source in Jerusalem told MA'ARIV last night. The message took Jerusalem by surprise and was delivered by U.S. Ambassador Samuel Lewis to the prime minister at his residence around 2000 last night.

The senior political source said that the contents of the U.S. President's message made it clear that President Reagan had personally decided against the position of Secretary of Defense Caspar Weinberger who had initiated the U.S.-Jordanian arms deal and who had been supported in this move by other senior figures in the U.S. administration and firmly opposed by Secretary of State Alexander Haig. The senior political source close to the prime minister said: "President Reagan's message to the prime minister is very friendly in format and very important in its contents."

Further Press Comment

TA180742 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0440 GMT 18 Feb 82

[From the review of morning press editorials]

[Excerpt] HA'ARETZ says that the Reagan message, satisfied with it as we may be, cannot allay all our fears if what it implies is that the U.S. leadership is not foregoing the principle of deals with Jordan or with any other Arab state.

The formulation of bringing peace to the region is also not categorical. In the paper's view, the message is a hint to Mr Begin that not just Washington, but also Jerusalem, must act with consideration for the interests of the other side. The prime minister would do well to pay close heed to the meaning of this hint, which is tantamount to a warning.

DAVAR writes that even if there is a basis for the image of the Reagan administration as suffering from an ongoing policy tug-of-war between the rival camps of the State Department and the Pentagon, there is method in the chaos. In this kind of division of labor, declarations of the sort made by Secretary Weinberger during his trip have a clear purpose. The President's reassuring words are more pleasing than words of anger. We must bear in mind, though, that his awareness of Israel's apprehension over the quantitative aggrandizement of the Arab states is not identical to his adopting Israel's stand.

Clash May Not Be Over

TA171245 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1200 GMT 17 Feb 82

[Excerpt] Government circles have expressed satisfaction with President Reagan's letter to Prime Minister Begin and his pledge of commitment to Israel's qualitative military aid. But our political reporter, Alan Ben-'Ami, says that there is also a feeling that although the clash over possible U.S. arms sales to Jordan has been averted for now, it may not be over. The government circles point out that while President Reagan says that no such deal has been requested or contemplated, there is also no clear-cut commitment about the future. The President says only that any decision on future sales to Jordan or any other country in the region will be made in the context of Washington's firm commitment to Israel's security and the need to bring peace to the region.

In the letter, the President also said that he recognized the unique bond between the United States and Israel. Israel remains America's friend and ally, but he said he also believed it was in the interest of both countries for the United States to enhance its influence with other states in the region.

HA'ARETZ: U.S. TO PURSUE JORDAN ARMS DEAL

TA181023 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 18 Feb 82 pp 1, 2

[Report from Washington by Gid'on Samet -- 17 Feb]

[Excerpt] The U.S. State Department and Pentagon intend to pursue the missile deal with Jordan, despite yesterday's explanations by the administration. It does not appear that there are any differences of opinion between the two departments over this matter. This was learned today from Israeli and U.S. sources.

Among Israeli Embassy circles it is believed that the explanations, including President Reagan's letter to Prime Minister Menahem Begin, deliberately left an opening for going ahead with the mobile Hawk missiles deal. This is also what the embassy has understood from its contacts with administration officials. The administration's reason for this is the desire to stop Jordan from purchasing the missiles from the Soviet Union. Yesterday the Pentagon spokesman also said that, "Jordan will get them one way or another," and the administration would prefer, "in such cases," to work against any connections between countries in the area and Moscow.

As for the sale of the F-16 fighters, the administration's position is more vague. "We have not been convinced that there will not be a missile deal," Israeli diplomats said here today. "Reagan's letter in fact states that the President's decision is pending, but that is also what Weinberger said." U.S. sources held to the text of the President's remarks in his letter, which did not negate the possibility of a future deal with Jordan "in the context" of a commitment to Israel and the desire for peace in the area.

PRESS COMMENTS ON ARMS TO JORDAN ISSUE

Lack of 'Coherent' U.S. Policy

TA140757 Jerusalem POST in English 14 Feb 82 p 8

[Editorial: "Who Speaks for Washington?"]

[Text] President Reagan's first year in office as the head of the Western world's superpower has been marked by one main weakness: the lack of a coherent foreign and defence policy which would emanate from Washington. For a Republican U.S. President whose policy emphasis is on increasing American military power, at the expense of cutting politically sensitive social, health and education programmes and of incurring an unprecedented budget deficit of close to \$100 billion, this certainly ought to be cause for serious concern.

The point of the Reagan administration's lack of a coherent and well-coordinated foreign and defence policy was made recently very strongly by a top authority on the subject, former Secretary of State and National Security Adviser Henry Kissinger, who last month published two articles in the New York TIMES attacking Reagan's foreign policy.

There can be no doubt that the personal animosity between President Reagan's Secretary of State Alexander Haig and Secretary of Defence Caspar Weinberger makes such policy coordination in Washington even more difficult. But this is no excuse for a world power which is supposed to lead the way.

If some quarters still held out hope that U.S. policy in the Middle East could be spared from this unfortunate state of affairs, Mr Weinberger's swing last week through Saudi Arabia, Oman and Jordan put an end to these hopes.

The ominous signs for Israel began to appear that the secretary of defence would make his last stop in the region in Amman, some 50 kilometres east of Jerusalem, but would deliberately avoid visiting Israel. Moreover, following his visit to Riyadh, it was announced that Saudi Arabia and the U.S. had agreed to establish a joint committee for military projects, something Washington had wanted to achieve for some time.

But Mr Weinberger's total disregard for the efforts of other senior members of Mr Reagan's administration in the Middle East was revealed finally during his visit to Amman where he promised King Husayn the sale of F-16 advanced jet fighters and -- in outright contravention of a decision by the U.S. Congress over six years ago -- the sale of mobile Hawk ground-to-air missiles. There was, of course, no mention whatsoever that in return for such American magnanimity Jordan would, at least, show a less negative attitude towards the U.S. sponsored Camp David peace process which provides an important role for Husayn's kingdom.

If there was still any doubt left as to Mr Weinberger's real intentions, the "senior official" on his plane yesterday spelled them out clearly and loudly: The Reagan administration, according to this official, has embarked on a "redirection of military policy toward the Middle East," and "the U.S. is not going to be hostage to Israel." According to another senior U.S. official travelling with Mr Weinberger the bottom line of American eagerness to sell more weapons to Jordan is a desire to "make more friends in the Arab world," even at the expense of Israeli interests.

Even in the jungle of international politics, where changing interests make for changing alliances, it is difficult to believe that these statements could have been uttered on behalf of the same U.S. secretary of defence who only 10 weeks ago signed the by now defunct memorandum of understanding between the U.S. and Israel on strategic cooperation with Israel's Defence Minister Ari'el Sharon.

The acute dangers for Israel inherent in such a new policy are only too obvious.

The promise to supply advanced fighter aircraft and advanced anti-aircraft missiles to Israel's closest neighbour which still prides itself as being a leading member of the Arab rejectionist front, without any political commitments on Jordan's part, must inevitably undermine the peace process in the Middle East.

Moreover, it runs counter to current U.S. efforts, as demonstrated during Mr Haig's recent tours to the region, to broaden that very peace process in conjunction with Israel, which after all is also a basic U.S. interest. The possible impact of such policy zigzags by senior policy makers in Washington on the mind of Egypt's leaders is only too obvious.

Washington's constant wooing of the Arab world through lavish undertakings of advanced arms sales has been going on for several years. According to one report, the U.S. has sold a total of \$40 billion worth of arms in the Arab world during the past five years -- double the amount of Soviet arms sales during the same period -- without receiving a real political quid pro quo, except in the case of Egypt which has opted for peace with Israel.

The threat to Israel which Mr Weinberger's apparent new policy poses, causes broad national concern both to the government and to the opposition who are speaking in one clear voice on this issue. At a time when the situation in south Lebanon is in continuous turmoil, with the PLO arming itself for a new offensive under the shelter of a precarious cease-fire, while Syria is on the verge of a civil war, Washington must speak in one clear voice regarding its immediate and long-term interests in the Middle East.

Mr Weinberger's ill-fated tour of the region has clearly upset both the political and military balance of power as far as Israel is concerned.

It is now up to President Reagan to state who speaks for Washington.

Would Upset Balance

TA160640 Jerusalem POST in English 16 Feb 82 p 10

[Editorial: "Warning In Due Time"]

[Text] The Labour Alignment joined the government in the Knesset yesterday behind a resolution expressing Israel's concern over the possibility that the U.S. might sell F-16 fighters and mobile Hawk air defence missiles to Jordan. This American intention was enunciated by U.S. Defence Secretary Caspar Weinberger after his visit to Amman last week. With the memory of the Saudi AWACS sale still painfully fresh, Mr Begin correctly decided that this time Israel will make its opposition plain even before there is certainty that Mr Weinberger's intention in fact reflects the Reagan administration's policy.

Apparently petulance had a great deal to do with Mr Weinberger's swing through the Middle East, and his accompanying remarks. He is irked that Israel tries to upset lucrative American arms deals whether with Riyadh, Jordan or anywhere else. And he is irritated that this same Israel defies American will with impunity, as in the case of the Golan annexation. But even a defence secretary should be able to muster a broader view than that in considering the significance of supplying Jordan with equipment that could threaten Israel's superiority in the air.

For as the opposition leader Shim'on Peres noted in the Knesset yesterday, such an American supply programme would undermine the delicate and complex relationship between Israel and Jordan, which, despite its fragility, has yet proved durable and provided an important measure of stability to the area. Providing Jordan with weapons that would positively push it into a provocative military posture cannot be a genuine interest of the United States -- when those interests are coolly and clearly understood.

For the more King Husayn is armed with tools that threaten Israel, the more he will be under pressure in the Arab world to put them at the disposal of Arab militancy. And the more Israel will then be aggravated into preemptive action, endangering King Husayn and his regime. That is not what Israel wants. It also cannot be what the U.S. wants.

It could, however, very well be what the PLO would prefer, and beyond that, the Soviet Union. Even an angry U.S. secretary of defence or one overly enthralled by the uses of arms sales would, upon sober reflection, not want to send American policy in such a direction. And since Mr Weinberger is probably the administration's toughest voice on U.S. policy towards the Soviet Union, it would seem that he too, with or without prodding by President Reagan, should not find it so difficult to see the dangers inherent in the course he has prescribed.

A Policy 'Filled With Dangers'

TA141015 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 14 Feb 82 p 5

[Commentary by Moshe Zaq: "On the Way to Munich"]

[Text] On the way from Amman to Munich, a "senior official" in the U.S. secretary of defense's entourage declared that "as for military policy, the United States will not be a hostage of Israel."

This declaration was part of a reply when the same "senior official" was asked if the U.S. administration would from now on divert its exports from Israel to the Arabs, and to this he replied yes.

These harsh words came in the wake of the disappointment Saudi Arabia caused to the U.S. secretary of defense.

Mr Weinberger had promised President Reagan, during the discussion about the AWACS deal, that the supply of those intelligence planes would influence Saudi Arabia, moderate its positions and in the end would be helpful to Israel, too. Caspar Weinberger knew that President Reagan is a genuine friend of Israel and is concerned about its security and, because of this, he "sold" him the idea that this supply of sophisticated aircraft would also be indirect aid to Israel's security.

On the basis of this promise, President Reagan sent a promise to the Senate that restrictions would be imposed on the Saudi Arabian use of the AWACS so as not to harm Israel's security. But when Caspar Weinberger went to Riyadh, the Saudi Arabians told him specifically: You are nothing but arms dealers -- we are paying in cash and we will decide about the use of our planes. Instead of admitting failure of his "conception," instead of thus admitting that he had misled President Reagan, the U.S. secretary of defense is now trying to turn things upside down and is coming out with a spearhead attack for the cancellation of the restrictions on the sale of U.S. weapons in the Middle East, restrictions which this administration cannot, like its predecessor, overcome without the opposition of Congress. This is the significance of the saying that "from the military viewpoint the United States is no longer a hostage to Israel."

The glory of the Reagan administration, which began with a declaration about nonsurrender to blackmail, will not come from this path being proposed by Caspar Weinberger.

The renunciation of promises by this administration and the previous administrations about keeping the qualitative gap between Israel and the Arab countries will not encourage the Arabs to moderation and negotiations about peace. On the contrary, this surrender will make it even more difficult for Egypt to stand up to the pressure of the Arab world.

This renunciation of specific commitments by the U.S. administration will arouse concern in the hearts of the U.S. allies, many of whom have recently been expressing fears about whether they really should rely on the promises of the United States.

Furthermore, the unbridled competition with the Soviets for the Arabs' favors will only strengthen the position of the Soviet Union in the Middle East.

Even Husayn himself will have to have second thoughts about whether the exclusive links with the United States now being proposed to him by Caspar Weinberger will be of use to him in a test with Syria and its ally -- the Soviet Union. If the United States is abandoning its commitments to Israel in its competition with the Soviets in the Middle East, who will guarantee to Husayn that the United States will not behave toward him in the same way. After all, Husayn has undoubtedly not forgotten what he could have expected in 1970 had the United States and Israel not stood at his side.

The new policy declared in Caspar Weinberger's plane on the way from Amman to Munich is filled with dangers for the entire Middle East.

'A Man Hostile to Israel'

TA151210 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 15 Feb 82 p 7

[Ze'ev Schiff commentary: "Hostile Man in the Pentagon"]

[Text] Whatever the final decision regarding the arms deal U.S. Secretary of Defense Weinberger promised King Husayn, as far as we are concerned one thing holds true without any shadow of a doubt: The Pentagon harbors a man hostile to Israel, a powerful person who is ready to harm Israel. This man is U.S. Secretary of Defense Caspar Weinberger. The emphasis is on hostility toward Israel, not on personal antagonism with its prime minister, Menahem Begin. The easiest pretext to adopt when hurting Israel is to say that one is annoyed with Begin. The Israeli prime minister has become the easiest target, nay a symbol to all those who wish to harm Israel. But in this case Weinberger's arrows are not hitting one man -- as important as he may be -- but the security of Israel. If Weinberger's policy materializes and the deal is carried through, the harm to Israel might be felt perhaps even after Begin retires from office. It takes place in 3 years and will probably have a longer-lasting effect.

The method Weinberger used in proclaiming his view similarly attests to quite a high level of animosity toward Israel. The secretary of defense arrived on his first tour of the Middle East in his official capacity, and the way he chose to be welcomed with open arms by the Arabs and score successes with them was through issuing critical remarks on Israel and making insinuations -- verging gossip -- about the prime minister of a country described as a friend of the United States. This no doubt makes the Arabs who hate Israel gleeful, but deep inside them it must further ingrain the feeling they have long harbored that Washington always deserts its friends at a certain time. The Saudis have said so more than once since the fall of the shah and the invasion of Afghanistan.

As far as we are concerned, clearly Weinberger's remarks point to the growing strength in Washington of the line hostile to Israel, the path that maintains that we should not be listened to too extensively. We have come a long way since Haig first came to the region as secretary of state. In his first visit he wished to sell the thesis that all nations of the area should choose to unite against the Soviet penetration, and then all else will fall into place in time. This was the anti-Soviet coin. The coin the secretary of defense now uses is: We will from now on act against Israel, we will demonstrate inflexibility toward it, no longer take it into account as we used to. It is not the Soviets that bother Weinberger; it is the Israelis.

It is true that we too are to blame to a considerable extent for having brought about this negative trend. We made it easy for this approach to surface. Some present Weinberger's hostile approach now as a feud within the top leadership in the U.S. administration.

This may be so, but beyond all else it shows that the U.S. administration lacks a clear guideline, that it is confused and is running about. In such circumstances the easiest way out is to sell more and more arms. This is the feeling the Europeans have long had. It could also be heard coming from Egypt and is slowly influencing us, too.

In the distant past, there were in the Pentagon elements hostile to Israel, but it was not proper to say this outright. Weinberger has changed this. He is the first to boast of his hostile approach. He furthermore states that the differences between the United States and Israel are no longer disputes among friends. As far as he is concerned, just because of those differences of opinion Israel can justifiably be hurt. Thus Weinberger torpedoed the old U.S. argument and pledge that whatever may come, Washington will not harm Israel's security. For some months now we have known that those considered to be friends of Israel in the Pentagon have been pushed to the fringes and given other posts, whereas the tone is being determined by Weinberger and his deputy, Carlucci. Our men have also observed that the door to Weinberger's office is astonishingly wide open to the Saudis. Saudi princes arriving in Washington permit themselves to approach him directly and uninhibitedly, sensing that this is their man. The Israelis' access to the high echelons has, on the other hand, become more and more difficult. In this context it is worthwhile to mention the remarks of a senior U.S. Armed Forces personality friendly to Israel who told me that it would be a mistake if Israel replaced its outstanding representatives in the United States -- like the head of the Defense Ministry mission, Maj Gen Arye Levi -- now.

As for the actual deal Weinberger has offered the Jordanians, those experts who contend that strengthening the Jordanian Air Force by providing it with a combat capability will undermine the Israeli-Arab balance of power are by all means correct. As in the past, the explanations and reasons Washington will soon give will be that a number of F-16's and mobile missiles batteries are a mere pittance against the mighty Israeli Air Force. The F-16's are anyway considered "obsolete" compared to the F-18's, and to counter the missile batteries, Israel will be supplied with this, that and the other -- all kinds of equipment -- or the United States will say it will be prepared to convert dollars into shekels for the production of the Lavi and the like. But this time the case is extremely grave. This is not the place to detail the question of the balance of powers between us and the Arab armies in all spheres or to place the Jordanian Army within that constellation. What is important to note is that the Jordanian Air Force is considered by many experts -- with justification -- to be the most dangerous for us in various respects: not only because of its relatively higher standard compared with the other Arab air forces, but first of all because of its great proximity to Israel's most vital targets.

It takes only a few minutes to fly to Israeli airfields, whose number will decrease after the withdrawal from the Sinai. Incidentally, one ought to point out that one of the two new airfields -- 'Uvda -- is also within the range of artillery fire directed from Jordanian soil, just as things stood prior to the 6-day war. Within a few minutes the Jordanian Air Force could surprise us with a low-altitude sortie carrying this time a large load of bombs. This quantity could be even larger if the F-16 aircraft deal materializes. It increases the Arabs' ability to neutralize the Israeli airfields and allows them to deal us a catastrophic blow. The mobile missile batteries will strengthen the Jordanian Army's power as a mobile, armored force and will weaken the Israeli deterrence, which is based primarily on the air force's power. This deal will really have a serious impact on the balance of forces, if indeed it goes through. It will similarly constitute the dangerous continuation of a process that began a few years ago, in which the Israeli qualitative edge is being eroded. What is so aggravating about all this is that the closing qualitative gap is occurring primarily with the help of the United States and the West. If this is an arms race into which Israel has been thrown -- in which peace with Egypt has no positive impact -- then it stems first and foremost from the massive quantities of modern and advanced arms the United States has funneled into Arab hands, even exceeding the influx by the Soviets.

Beyond the question of the balance of power, Weinberger's approach sets new precedents and determines new rules of the game. It implies, among other things, that a pledge made by Washington is not a pledge and that there is no word of honor. At first, Defense Secretary Brown's promise on the combat auxiliary equipment for the Saudi F-15's was revoked, now they wish to do the same in regard to the mobile missile batteries. This should be borne in mind when further talk comes on promises and guarantees with respect to the continuation of the negotiations. In this context, it is, moreover, obvious that Weinberger's approach not only hinders even more the chances for reaching an arrangement along the eastern border, but it also indirectly strengthens the extremists in Israel and those with a hawkish inclination -- a trend that has for some time now existed among the Israeli public, expressed among other things in the approach of Minister Sharon, who has often claimed that the way to reach a solution to the Palestinian problem is through pushing King Husayn even more eastward than the Jordan.

SHAHAL ACCUSES EHRLICH OF LEAKING LEBANON REPORT

TA171127 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1100 GMT 17 Feb 82

[Text] The opposition has again scored a victory over the coalition in the Knesset plenum. With 42 votes in favor and 38 votes against, a draft law proposed by MK Moshe Shahal of the Alignment regarding freedom of information was passed in a preliminary debate. MK Shahal accused the government of having blocked the flow of political information in the last few years. He called on Deputy Prime Minister Simha Ehrlich to resign if the reports are true that he was the one who leaked information about the intention to move into southern Lebanon after the Cabinet meeting.

Justice Minister Moshe Nisim said that the draft law was important in principle but it is very comprehensive and currently unfeasible. According to him, if the law is passed it will be necessary to hire hundreds of workers whose duty will be to give information.

Ehrlich Denies Charge

TA172002 Jerusalem Domestic Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 17 Feb 82

[Deputy Prime Minister Simha Ehrlich interviewed on 17 February by political correspondent Elimelech Ram -- videotaped]

[Text] [Ehrlich] I am shocked by the nerve of a Knesset member getting up on the Knesset podium to accuse a colleague -- a Knesset member, a Cabinet member -- of such a grave thing. [leaking information on alleged military operation in north] There is not a grain of truth in it. I reject it bitterly. Excuse me, MK Moshe Shahal is known as an unreliable man. I see that the Alignment has taken it upon itself to try to besmirch the names of Cabinet members. This is the first time for me.

[Question] If a minister leaks security secrets must he resign from the government?

[Answer] First of all, what is it? Isn't it clear to MK Roni Milo that it is a lie? He has to ask if? What is he talking about? If a Cabinet member leaks security secrets -- there are different categories of security secrets; what and how and when -- I do not decide on this, but if it is something really serious, of course one has to draw conclusions. [sentence as heard]

[Question] Perhaps we can talk about security secrets under discussion, that is, about the fact that MK Shahal said that the Cabinet, or, that there was decision to begin a military action and -- that is what he says -- you leaked this and said that you had stopped it.

[Answer] I know nothing about such a decision.

[Question] But, in principle....

[Answer] To this moment I know nothing about such a decision.

[Question] ...in principle, if a minister leaks, let us say, a report of this sort, should he resign?

[Answer] Draw conclusions....

[Question] Would you demand that he resign?

[Answer] Of course. If there is such a thing and if it damages the country's security, there is no doubt that he has to draw conclusions.

[Question] Mr Ehrlich: Do you know anything about a meeting between the prime minister and the foreign minister, at which that leak was discussed?

[Answer] No, I do not know anything about it.

[Question] Did the prime minister speak with you about that leak, or try to find out its origin?

[Answer] No, no, no, never.

[Question] Is the information published in the media from the Cabinet sessions correct?

[Answer] In my assessment, in most cases, the decisive majority, in 99 percent of the cases it is incorrect.

[Question] Why does the Cabinet not correct these things?

[Answer] Why does the Cabinet not correct them? I think that there is a problem here of, I would say, a democratic regime and the problem is not a simple one, it is quite complicated. It is impossible to submit Cabinet members to a polygraph. Also, I do not believe in that machine. I have more than once been given one of those tests. I object to them, but personally I would be prepared to face such a test, despite the fact that I don't trust it.

[Question] Would you be prepared to face such a test even in view of the accusations of MK Shahal?

[Answer] Of course, of course, undoubtedly, even with all the reservations I mentioned -- actually because of that -- today I would opt to do that. But I say that in a democratic regime you cannot put a minister to a test, force him to take a lie detector test. I understand the reservations, the prime minister's unequivocal reservations on this; I understand them and I agree with them.

[Question] Permit me once more: I understand that, with regard to this specific case, you are prepared....

[Answer] I am isolating this case. Nothing I have said involves this case.

[Question] And, with regard to this case, are you prepared to submit to a lie detector?

[Answer] If the prime minister orders me to, I will, at any minute, at any second, be ready for it, because I regard this as very base slander. [end videotape]

Begin: 'Full Confidence'

TA180648 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 18 Feb 82

[Text] Prime Minister Begin told Deputy Premier Simha Ehrlich he has full confidence [in him] and he found it inconceivable Ehrlich would leak state secrets to reporters.

Kol Yisra'el's diplomatic correspondent also says Begin has not discussed the question at all with Foreign Minister Shamir, as Labor whip Moshe Shahal earlier charged. Deputy Premier Ehrlich offered to take a lie-detector test to refute Shahal's allegations.

PLO TERRORISTS TRAINING IN SOUTHERN LEBANON

TA122100 [Editorial Report] Jerusalem Domestic Television Service in Hebrew at 1835 GMT 12 Feb 82 carries a 5-minute report by military correspondent Ron Ben Yishay on the situation near the northern border of Israel. Incorporated into the report is a film about training in southern Lebanon, a film which the announcer says was made about 3 weeks ago in southern Lebanon, in the area controlled by the 'terrorists.' As the film begins the announcer states: "The effort and resourcefulness invested in it enable us to perceive from a first-hand source how the terrorists are preparing for the resumption of fire. And, what is more important, in this film we are seeing for the first time how, at a distance of a few kilometers from the Israeli border the terrorists are setting up and training military frameworks of company and battalion size -- frameworks that will form the infrastructure for the regular army of the Palestinian state that the PLO is envisioning."

The camera then shows what the announcer describes as a platoon training for a battle of confrontation, with the announcer pointing out that the movements are carried out "according to Soviet training." Two squads of men are then shown deploying for attack with their soldiers firing and running forward, and a third squad running in a column in the rear. Next, the camera shows what the announcer describes as "a regiment training for an attack on an unfortified target," with the troop movements made in the same basic squad formation.

As these movements are completed, the announcer says that "not long ago, terrorists, members of the Fatah Karamah brigade, staged an exercise for the takeover of a Jewish settlement called Begin City. The exercise, which was attended by 'Arafat and other Fatah commanders, was broadcast by the PLO radio and, according to the announcer, a whole brigade took part in it. The reality, however, is slightly different, at least in our terms. The real force that had taken part amounted to company size. The exercise, however, had every element of a regular attack by a military force. There were tanks, auxiliary arms, artillery softening, breaking through fences, and so forth." The camera then shows more troop movements, with one squad straightening the line and running forward, while another squad advances from another direction.

As the film ends, the announcer adds: "Our conclusion should be that in the not too distant future we have to prepare for a new kind of terrorist activity -- not only terrorist bands planting mines or trying to seize hostages; from now on we have to take into consideration the possibility of an attempt to attack a settlement of ours by several dozens of terrorists, either to take it over for a limited period of time, or in order to perpetrate large-scale slaughter."

1500 TERRORISTS DEPLOYED ON LEBANESE COAST

TA181027 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 18 Feb 82 p 1

[Text] About 1,500 terrorists, armed with 106-mm cannons and antiaircraft missiles, deployed yesterday along the southern coast of Lebanon following reports that Israeli navy ships were sailing along the coast. The terrorists deployment begins at Khaladah, a suburb of Beirut, and extends southward as far as As-Sa'diyat, about 70 km from the Israeli border. PLO forces have also increased their patrols along the Beirut-Sidon Highway.

UNIFIL SAYS TERRORISTS WITHDRAW IN SOUTH

TA180815 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0800 GMT 18 Feb 82

[Text] The UNIFIL spokesman has stated that all the terrorists who had infiltrated the territory controlled by the UN in southern Lebanon in the wake of the clashes between members of the Shi'ite organization Amal and members of the leftist front, have now been evacuated. UN forces are carrying out reinforced patrols in the western sector. The spokesman told our correspondent, Hayim Hecht, that the reinforcements sent to that sector are hampering UNIFIL, and he hopes that the Security Council will soon approve an additional 1,000 troops for the force.

BI'R ZAYT UNIVERSITY CLOSED FOR 2 MONTHS

TA162039 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 2000 GMT 16 Feb 82

[Excerpt] Bi'r Zayt University has been closed for 2 months by order of the commander of the Central Command. This was announced this evening by the IDF spokesman. This step was adopted after it became clear that the university's authorities were incapable of fulfilling their responsibilities on the campus. It was feared that there might be a recurrence of the incident yesterday when a civilian worker in the civilian administration's education department was attacked. Our correspondent, Arye Gus, reported that the security forces arrested two foreign lecturers from Bi'r Zayt University and charged them with incitement and possession of PLO material. One of the lecturers is British and the other is a female American.

Students Demonstrate

TA170924 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0900 GMT 17 Feb 82

[Excerpts] To protest the closure of Bi'r Zayt University, students from the girls high school in the Al-'Amarah refugee camp have been staging a demonstration in the schoolyard. Security forces are nearby. In Al-Birah, female students engaged in a demonstration were dispersed with tear gas. In the teachers' seminar in Ramallah, anti-Israel slogans were painted on the walls.

Palestine Flags Hoisted

TA171148 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1100 GMT 17 Feb 82

[Excerpt] The acts of violence in protest against the closing of Bi'r Zayt University are continuing in Judaea and Samaria. Army troops surrounded the teachers' seminar in Ramallah after the students staged a demonstration and hoisted Palestine flags. Our correspondent, Pinhas 'Inbari, reports that masked youths walked around the shops in Ramallah and urged the shopkeepers to close their businesses. A commercial strike, however, did not erupt.

In the village of Batir in the Bethlehem district, there were no studies because students went to the area where the military government expropriated land to plant trees. There were no studies in the (Hadj Ma'zuz al-Masri) High School in Nabulus and the students gathered for meetings at Mayor Bassam Ash-Shak'ah's office. Students from this school hurled stones at a car carrying settlers last night. The military governor warned the school's principal and unknown people later set the principal's office on fire.

Two Soldiers Injured

TA171231 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1200 GMT 17 Feb 82

[Text] Two IDF soldiers were injured and required medical treatment as Qalandiyah refugee camp youths staged violent disturbances this morning in protest of the closure of Bi'r Zayt University.

The violators of the public order threw stones at Israeli cars on the main highway and hit a military car, in which these two soldiers were driving. The car itself was badly damaged. Border police forces rushed to the scene and threw tear gas grenades at the demonstrators. Since this had no effect, they fired warning shots into the air and drove the demonstrators away.

Our correspondent, Pinhas 'Inbari, reports that in Ramallah -- which experienced disturbances this morning as well -- the tempers had calmed this afternoon, but he adds that large security force units are still patrolling the city. Numerous arrests were carried out among the Ramallah youths. At Bi'r Zayt University itself, the acting president of the university, Gabi Barmki, today conferred with the teaching staff to discuss the administration's decision to close the university for 2 months. This afternoon, the Supreme Council for Higher Education in Judaea and Samaria will meet to discuss this.

Strikes in Judaea, Samaria

TA180818 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1800 GMT 18 Feb 82

[Text] Most of the municipalities are on strike in Judaea and Samaria in protest of the closure of Bi'r Zayt University, among them are Hebron, Ramallah, Nabulus, Al-Birah and Janin. In some towns disturbances are continuing today as well. In Qalandiyah stones were thrown at a bus; no one was hurt. In some schools in Ramallah and Bayt Jala, students are demonstrating. Female students at a school in Al-Birah thought they had spotted Rabbi Kahane among the soldiers who dispersed their demonstration, and began demonstrating against him. Our correspondent was told that Rabbi Kahane is on furlough.

NABULUS MAYOR GAINS VICTORY OVER OPPONENTS

TA172149 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 2100 GMT 17 Feb 82

[Text] Nabulus Mayor Bassam Ash-Shak'ah has overcome his opponents in the town and forced the Council of Directors of An-Najah University to bring back to work the four leftist lecturers the council dismissed during the first 6 months of the study year as part of the agreement to reopen the university.

Our correspondent, Pinhas 'Inbari, reports that this move is considered to be a blow to Hikmat Al-Masri, the chairman of the Board of Trustees of the university. At the same time, a confrontation has developed between Bassam Ash-Shak'ah and Hilmi Hanun, from Tulkarm, who is accusing Ash-Shak'ah of making the situation at the university worse.

GOVERNMENT INSISTS ON 'OFFICIAL' MUBARAK VISIT

TA181055 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 18 Feb 82 p 1

[Report by Ilan Kefir]

[Text] Israel is insisting that the visit by Egyptian President Husni Mubarak include Jerusalem and be a state visit. Foreign Minister Yitzhaq Shamir, who is scheduled to meet with Mubarak on his visit to Cairo next week, will explain Israel's position. Israel wants the first visit by President Mubarak to Israel to be official and to include attendance at an extraordinary Knesset meeting and other state ceremonies, including a visit to Yad Vashem.

Over the last few days, Egypt has hinted that it would prefer Mr Mubarak's visit to Israel to be a "private working visit" and not an official state visit. The Egyptians have hinted that they would prefer that the visit and the talks with the Israeli prime minister be held outside of Jerusalem, in any other town decided upon by Israel.

The topic of Mubarak's visit and its schedule will be determined during the visit to Cairo by Foreign Minister Yitzhaq Shamir. There is a possibility for a compromise, by which Israel will agree that Mubarak visit Jerusalem, spending the night in Tel Aviv or another town. The president of Egypt is scheduled to come to Israel during the second week of March, after the visit to Jerusalem by French President Francois Mitterrand.

TZIPORI CALLS FOR HARD LINE AGAINST GOLAN DRUZE

TA180733 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0505 GMT 18 Feb 82

[Report on remarks made by Communications Minister Mordekhay Tzipori on 17 February during a tour of the Golan Heights -- recorded]

[Excerpt] In my view, any weakness we show vis-a-vis those persons who call themselves Syrians will not be to our benefit in the long term. We must deal with them firmly. Anyone who feels he is a Syrian -- the Golan Heights is ours, it is in our hands, and the same was true even before we applied Israeli law -- must be allowed, in a very democratic manner, to go to Syria.

[Correspondent] A firm policy is the only way to bring about an end to the strike, the minister said. If the clerics are the ones who are the instigators, we must remove the kid gloves and deal with the clerics as with any other lawbreakers.

[Tzipori] In fact, a Druze religious cleric who has removed himself from the pale of his religion, no longer represents a religion. He is an ordinary agitator and an ordinary foe of the State of Israel, and that is how he must be treated, too. They must not be allowed to use the cover of religious clerics to instigate, to involve innocent persons -- and in the end their radicalism will be of no benefit to them.

POLL: MAJORITY OF PUBLIC FAVORS SINAI WITHDRAWAL

TA160645 Jerusalem POST in English 16 Feb 82 p 2

[Report by political reporter Mark Segal]

[Text] Tel Aviv -- Almost 2/3 of the population favour keeping to the Sinai withdrawal deadline. About 1/3 believe stopping the withdrawal will result in another war with the Arabs. The facts emerged from the latest Jerusalem POST poll conducted by the Modi'in Ezrahi Institute of Research among a representation selection of 1,301 adults towards the end of January.

The poll also found that nearly 80 percent of Israel's object to allowing new settlers into the Yamit area and deplore the compensation awarded Yamit settlers as exorbitant. When asked: "Are you for or against the withdrawal from Yamit in April?" the replies were: for -- 61.7 percent, against -- 31.6 percent, undecided -- 6.7 percent.

Institute Director Dr Sara Shemer, in analysing the data, came up with a demographic profile of the pro-withdrawal supporters indicating a preponderance of men, university graduates, Western origin, white collar occupations and secular minded, with a high representation of Labour supporters. A similar analysis of the anti-withdrawal camp indicated a high ratio of women, the 18-29 age group, secondary school graduates, Israelis of North African origin, religious and pro-Likud. However, she pointed out that the pro-withdrawal majority divided into 22.9 percent for keeping to the deadline unconditionally and 38.8 percent tabling conditions. The anti-withdrawal minority was similarly split into unconditional (20.9 percent) and conditional (10.7 percent) wings.

The overall impression gained from individual responses was of considerable hesitation and scepticism, said Shemer, with most people resigned to rather than enthusiastic about the withdrawal.

A rather pessimistic picture of the public mind emerged from replies to the subsequent question: "What would happen should Israel not withdraw in April?" The replies to this open question (the respondents were not offered a specific answer) were as follows: war with Egypt (32.2 percent), total loss of the chance for peace (11.2 percent), international isolation (10 percent), rising tension with Egypt (6.8 percent), civil war (3.9 percent), mounting American pressure (2.9 percent), war with all Arab states (1.5 percent), and other dire forecasts, such as the fall of the government (1 percent), and a general deterioration in conditions (1 percent). Only 8.2 percent believed "nothing will happen," while 21.3 percent remained undecided.

Shemer said it is interesting that both the pro- and anti-withdrawal camps conceived worst-case scenarios if the deadline was not kept. However, the pros were more anxious than the antis, hence 35.3 percent of the pros feared war compared to 32.2 percent of those against, and 14.6 percent of those for keeping the deadline feared that peace would be lost as against 6.9 percent of those against. A high 16.8 percent of those opposing evacuation held "nothing will happen" compared to 5.5 percent of those supporting it.

However when it came to the question: "Should new settlers be permitted to enter the Yamit region?" the replies produced a decisive 78.2 percent no, 17.6 percent yes, with 4.2 percent undecided. Hostility to allowing new settlers into the region embraced all strata of the population and all political opinions.

The same high ratio was maintained when asked the question "What is your opinion of the financial compensation awarded to Yamit residents?" with replies as follows: exorbitant -- 77 percent, sufficient -- 14.3 percent, and inadequate -- 2 percent.

Shemer noted that the consensus over the exorbitant rate of compensation embraced both those for and against withdrawal, with 85 percent of the pros and 70 percent of the antis holding to this view. She pointed out that the stronger the respondent's opposition to the withdrawal, the greater his objection to high compensation.

DAVAR POLL: MAJORITY IDENTIFY WITH 'RIGHT'

TA121228 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 12 Feb 82 p 1

[Text] About 20 percent of the Jewish population of Israel have described their views as being closer to the "right" as against 6.7 percent who regard themselves as being closer to the "left." The majority -- 53.7 percent -- described their views as "rightist" or "moderate rightist" compared to 29.5 percent who regard their views as being "leftist" or "moderate left." These findings will soon be published in the monthly MONITIN based on a public opinion poll conducted by the director of the DAVAR-affiliated research institute.

The poll included 1,250 persons representing a cross section of the adult Jewish population in Israel, excluding kibbutz residents. Had kibbutzniks been included, it would be safe to assume that the proportionate weight of the leftist part of the equation would have increased, but it would not have made a substantial change in the overall picture.

In terms of their political views, the Likud supporters are a much more homogeneous camp than the Alignment. Other questions indicated the Likud is now thought of as more concerned with the public's plight than the Alignment. In reply to the question of which of the two blocs -- the Likud or the Alignment -- "takes better care of the problems and the needs of people like you?" 36.9 percent voted for the Likud as against 21.1 percent for the Alignment.

ALGERIAIRANIAN FOREIGN MINISTER DEPARTS AFTER VISIT

LD171248 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 17 Feb 82

[Excerpts] Mohamed ben Yahia, member of the Political Bureau and foreign minister, and 'Ali Akbar Velyati, Iranian foreign minister, this morning signed at Houari Boumediene Airport an agreement for technical and cultural cooperation between the two countries. Afterwards the Iranian foreign minister left Algiers at the end of his official visit, which lasted several days. He was seen off by Mohamed Seddik ben Yahia.

In a statement to APS, the Iranian minister pointed out that his visit to Algeria was at the invitation of his Algerian counterpart and was the result of the desire of the two countries to consolidate bilateral relations. He added that this visit had provided an opportunity for an exchange of experiences between the two countries and that this had led to fruitful and good results. He said that the signed agreement provides for the intensification of cultural exchanges between the two Muslim countries. He stressed that we shall work to [word indistinct] by exchanging views and ideas.

USSR JUSTICE MINISTER ARRIVES FOR 1-WEEK VISIT

LD171948 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 17 Feb 82

[Text] Vladimir Terebilov, CPSU Central Committee member and minister of justice, arrived in Algiers at noon today on an official 1-week visit. He was met at Houari Boumediene Airport by the Politbureau member and Minister of Justice Boualem Baki and the Soviet ambassador to Algeria.

Mr Terebilov, who was received by Boualem Baki at the Ministry of Justice this afternoon, will hold a series of talks with Boualem Baki dealing basically with bolstering relations between the two countries, especially in the fields of justice and law.

INDIA AGREES TO EXPAND ECONOMIC COOPERATION

PM171601 Algiers EL MOUDJAHID in French 12-13 Feb 82 pp 1, 12

[K. Yessad report: "Algeria and India Agree To Expand Their Exchanges"]

[Excerpt] A draft agreement, which rounds off the work of the first Algerian-Indian joint committee, was signed on Thursday by A. Brahimi, minister of planning and national development, and S.B. Chavan, Indian minister of planning.

During his visit to Algeria, S.B. Chavan was received by the head of state, by Prime Minister Mohamed ben Ahmed Abdelghani as well as by several members of the government.

This draft agreement specifies in utmost detail the different spheres in which bilateral cooperation is thought likely to find the most favorable conditions for development and activation in our mutual interest. Thus, in the economic sphere and more specifically in the transportation sector, India is to participate in the next few months in research and development, technical assistance and the formation and construction of infrastructures and permanent installations. In light industry, the Indian partner is to cooperate with Algeria in several fields, concerning, in particular, textiles, standardization, engineering and the promotion of small and medium-sized industries. In addition, Indian economic specialists will be entrusted with designing and constructing certain industrial units which will be located across the country. In other sectors, the Algerians and Indians are improving conditions for implementing advantageous cooperation between the two countries.

The first session of the Algerian-Indian joint committee began its work on 8 February in Algiers, its main aim being to organize cooperation most capable of creating a new climate of exchanges between the two countries. This meeting, which is to review past and present actions and to define future prospects, follows numerous contacts which have taken place between Algerian officials and their Indian counterparts during ministerial visits to the two capitals.

This Algerian-Indian meeting is part of the process of setting up economic cooperation between countries on the path of development, as part of the activation of South-South cooperation which is an important stage in the advent of a new international economic order.

LIBYA

IRANIAN FOREIGN MINISTER ARRIVES IN TRIPOLI

LD171400 Tripoli Domestic Service in Arabic 1330 GMT 17 Feb 82

[Text] Brother 'Ali Akbar Velayati, foreign minister of the Islamic Republic of Iran, arrived in Tripoli at noon today on a visit to the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah.

In a statement to JANA, Brother Velayati stressed the importance of the bonds and fraternal relations between the Libyan Arab and the Iranian peoples. He said our relations with the Libyan Arab people have been good since the beginning of the triumph of the Islamic revolution in Iran and that these relations are growing stronger day after day. He added: We are determined to widen and consolidate these relations in all fields.

Brother 'Ali Akbar Velayati is accompanied by a delegation of senior officials of the Iranian Foreign Ministry.

Talks Begin

LD180752 Tripoli Voice of Arab Homeland in Arabic 0215 GMT 18 Feb 82

[Text] Libyan Arab-Iranian talks began last night at the headquarters of the People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison. 'Abd al-'Ati al-'Ubaydi, secretary of the Popular Committee of the People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison, and a number of officials of various secretariats took part in these talks. Iranian Foreign Minister Dr 'Ali Akbar Velayati and the delegation accompanying him represented the Iranian side.

At the beginning of the meeting, Brother 'Abd al-'Ati al-'Ubaydi delivered a speech in which he welcomed the Iranian guests, underlining the importance of this visit in consolidating the bonds of fraternity between the two fraternal peoples. He also emphasized the importance of meetings between the Great September Revolution and the Islamic revolution to confront the imperialist plans that are aimed at striking at the progressive forces and at imposing hegemony on peoples. He explained that the Great 1 September Revolution is earnestly seeking to form an Islamic force that could gather the Muslims and create out of them a force that could stand up to the states that are trying to dominate and impose hegemony on the destinies of the weak nations. He affirmed the stand of the Libyan Arab people on the side of the Iranian Muslim people to enable them to play their natural role and take part in the liberation of Palestine and the holy territories.

The Iranian foreign minister delivered a speech in which he asserted the interest of the republic of the Islamic revolution in Iran in consolidating ties with the people of the Jamahiriyah, who have defended their country and achieved freedom and happiness for themselves. He affirmed that the Great 1 September Revolution and the Islamic revolution in Iran stand in the face of imperialism and its agents and that they support all the progressive forces in the world.

The Iranian foreign minister pointed out that resisting imperialism and Zionism will be accomplished by the unified action of the progressive forces in the Arab homeland and the Islamic world. He reaffirmed the backing of the Islamic revolution in Iran for the states of the steadfastness and confrontation front with all the resources available to the Iranian people.

Afterwards a number of technical committees for cooperation in various fields were formed.

Meets Al-Qadhdhafi

NC180735 Tripoli Domestic Service in Arabic 0600 GMT 18 Feb 82

[Text] The brother leader of the revolution [Mu'ammarr al-Qadhdhafi] has met with Dr 'Ali Akbar Velayati, the foreign minister of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

GOUKOUNI ON PEACEKEEPING FORCE, LIBYA ALLIANCE

LD172354 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1730 GMT 17 Feb 82

[Text] Ndjamea, 17 Feb (JANA) -- Chad President Goukouni Oueddei has declared for the first time that non-African forces were serving in the ranks of the African forces in Chad [words indistinct]. The Chad president was referring to the American forces which are operating within the peacekeeping forces of some African countries in Chad.

The declaration of Chad President Goukouni Oueddei about the existence of U.S. forces came in a speech he made 2 days ago during the popular demonstrations which swept through Ndjamea to denounce the resolution of the recent Nairobi conference which called on Chad to enter into negotiations with the northern forces and announced the withdrawal of the African forces next June.

Regarding relations between the Jamahiriya and Chad and the historic role played by the Libyan forces in strengthening the freedom of the Chad people and in realizing peace in Chad, President Goukouni stressed in his speech that the security of Chad concerns us and that the security of the Jamahiriya is linked to Chad's security. He said: We have always made certain not to provide the opportunity and excuse to colonialism and its agents to attack the Jamahiriya and this is what had prompted us to ask our Libyan brothers to withdraw [from Chad].

He said Chad would never abandon its strategic alliance with Libya and that this is the logic of history. He said Chad will continue to express its gratitude and deep appreciation to the Jamahiriya for its valuable aid to its people which saved them from exhausting wars.

He added in his speech to the demonstrators: Some African states want to prepare for the return of colonialism to Chad and for the return of civil war.

He noted that the recent conference which was held in Nairobi was unlawful and that his government considers its resolutions as null and void. He said they [the participants of the conference] seek to establish colonialist domination over Chad.

President Goukouni strongly criticized the attitude of some African countries which brag about democracy and call for its realization. He asked: How can these states demand democracy when their people are enduring oppression, humiliation and degradation?

BRIEFS

LESOTHO FINANCE MINISTER LEAVES -- Tripoli, 17 Feb (JANA) -- Mr. Joshman, the finance minister of Lesotho [name and title as received], has left Tripoli this afternoon after a short stay in the Jamahiriya. [Text] [Tripoli JANA in English 1805 GMT 17 Feb 82 LD]

CHADNEW POLITICAL PARTY FORMED; GUNT PRESSURED

AB161247 Paris AFP in English 1226 GMT 16 Feb 82

[By Jean-Eudes Barbier]

[Text] Yaounde, 16 Feb (AFP) -- News of the formation of yet another political party in faction-ridden Chad has thrown into question the cohesion of the country's so-called Transitional Government of National Unity [GUNT], as it faces immense pressure to negotiate with its enemies.

Following reports yesterday of the founding of the National Democratic and Popular Assembly, headed by the GUNT's justice minister, Kassire Delwa Koumakoye, observers in neighboring Cameroon wondered how long President Goukouni Oueddei's administration can keep up its opposition to such talks. For the past few days, since a call by the OAU for the GUNT to talk with the rebel FAN of former Defence Minister Hissein Habre, Mr. Goukouni has been making strenuous efforts to persuade opinion at home and abroad that his Cabinet can hold firm against both political and military pressure. The GUNT has already rejected the Nairobi conference's decision that a cease-fire should be arranged, a constitution drawn up and parliamentary and presidential elections be held, all before the OAU peacekeeping force now in Chad withdraws when its mandate expires at the end of June. Last Friday, 4,000 residents of Ndjamenas responded to the call of the authorities to welcome Mr. Goukouni at the airport when he returned from Nairobi. Two days later several thousand attended a mass meeting in support of the GUNT at the city's race-track. However, reliable sources in Yaounde said that factions from southern Chad, the only part of the country not economically devastated, were beginning to voice more criticism of the GUNT. The regional permanent committee, headed by GUNT Vice-President Col Abdel Kader Kamougue, was reported to have criticised the government as not being "up to the job" earlier this month. The committee singled out the decision to halve the pay of civil servants and members of the national army, as well as disorder in the state's finances.

According to various sources, Mr Goukouni's Cabinet is not solidly behind him in his decision to ignore the OAU resolutions, notably over the organization of elections and the starting of talks with Mr. Habre, whose forces hold a large portion of the east and north of the country. Mr Goukouni has expressed willingness to talk to the FAN, but without Mr Habre. Reports reaching Yaounde said that a few days ago he asserted his authority by ordering the arrest and imprisonment of several dozen people in Ndjamenas suspected of loyalty to Mr. Habre, in an apparent attempt to pre-empt any movement of support in the capital for the FAN leader. But the GUNT appears to be solidly behind Mr. Goukouni's attempts to rope in other countries to help him if the OAU abandons him. The states most frequently named are Ethiopia -- GUNT Secretary-General Mohamat Nur Barka was in Addis Ababa yesterday -- and Libya, whose forces helped the president defeat the FAN but withdrew at his request last November, after almost a year in Chad.

Mr. Habre is still active, no doubt encouraged by the OAU resolutions, and is now reported to be opposing the national army at Mongo, in central Chad. He is avoiding contact with the peacekeeping force but may yet decide to seek a purely military solution to the conflict.

LE MONDE: ANTIGOVERNMENT FORCES MAKING HEADWAY

PM171311 Paris LE MONDE in French 16 Feb 82 p 46

["J.-C.P." report]

[Text] Hissein Habre's Northern Armed Forces (FAN) occupied new areas last week, an informed French source confirmed on 15 February.

The FAN first succeeded in rallying several hundred armed units in Ennedi (northeast Chad). Elsewhere, they occupied the Gouro, in the north, which commands access to the Tibesti Massif. Finally and contrary to what is believed, the FAN have not evacuated Mangalme (in Guera, central Chad) but their garrison detached some units to Am Dam, in the eastern Ouaddai subprefecture. These latest successes assure the FAN of control over the entire north and east of the country, 2 weeks before the date set by the OAU for the introduction of a cease-fire. In fact, Hissein Habre's men reportedly have been occupying Salal (north of Kanem Province) in the west for several days, while in this western sector, small detachments of the Nigerian contingent of the inter-African peace force are believed to have taken up positions in the towns and rural areas of Nokou, Mao, Bol and Moussoro, to the north and east of Lake Chad.

On the political level, finally, faced with Goukouni Oueddei's rejection of the OAU "peace plan," some Chadian figures, it is believed, intend to form a "countergovernment" which favors talks with Hissein Habre, it was learned in Paris on Monday from an informed source. There has been no clarification regarding its composition.

HISSEIN HABRE: 'NO REBEL WITHOUT CAUSE'

PM161607 Paris LE MATIN in French 11 Feb 82 p 12

["C.L." report on interview with Hissein Habre, president of the Chad Northern Armed Forces Command Council; date and place not given]

[Excerpts] Hissein, as he is called here, is no "rebel without a cause" nor is he driven by a "lust for life." A cause he does have and he declares it to be that of a "united Chad, truly decolonized with the right to self-determination and an independence that is no longer just formal" -- a Chad, above all, "where regional, cultural and religious differences will be respected but where social justice will prevail and where one caste will not crush all others."

With the expression of a disappointed and vexed adolescent whom nobody understands, [he said:] "Negotiation? But we have always asked for it. Since this war began on 21 March 1980, when the other side assassinated about 30 of our militants in the middle of the night in Ndjamena, when they tried to eliminate us, we have been saying: let us negotiate, let us stop this folly. But Goukouni replied there has to be a winner and a loser and, having been discreetly helped by Giscard, he asked the Libyans to come in. Goukouni has always needed outsiders. But we continued to say a political solution is needed."

He continued in a calm, steady but firm voice, with the manifest desire to convince: "Today, we are the strongest. But we are not counting on a military solution for it is only on the basis of a compromise that Chadians can find a solution. Maximalism is no solution; it only breeds conflicts. Now, we do not want to impose anything, we want to find a platform where our ideal will be given a place, only a place. We are ready to discuss things with all Chadians, with none barred, without there being any problems of personalities. But we want outsiders, whoever they may be, to let Chadians solve their own problems. Let no country try to impose its solution on Chad or its diktat on Chadians. It is a problem of independence, of sovereignty, of the dignity of the Chadian and, consequently, of the African."

IVORY COASTBETE OFFICERS AFFIRM SUPPORT FOR PRESIDENT

AB141005 Abidjan Domestic Service in French 0700 GMT 14 Feb 82

[Text] During the meeting of the party yesterday morning at the presidential palace, the cadres of the Bete ethnic group in the national army addressed a motion of support to the head of state. The motion was read by Gen Zeze Baroan Bertin, chief of staff of the National Armed Forces of the Ivory Coast.

[Begin recording] In view of the events in our capital, events led by certain cadres of higher education belonging to the Bete ethnic group, that is, Zadi Zaourou, Koudou Gbabgo Laurent and Kipre Pierre and which could give the impression that there is some connivance between these cadres and the soldiers in the national army belonging to the Bete ethnic group, we, the general officers, the senior and junior officers as well as the junior officers belonging to the Bete ethnic group held a general meeting on 12 February 1982 under the chairmanship of Gen Zeze Baroan Bertin, chief of staff of the Armed Forces of the Ivory Coast.

After analysis of the situation created by the recent university disturbances; considering that since the first hours of the struggle for emancipation, the Bete people have always stood beside President Felix Houphouet-Boigny and intend to stay there; considering that it is with President Felix Houphouet-Boigny, whose wisdom and unanimously recognized political clearheadedness that the Ivory Coast had made a prodigious leap on the path of development owing to stability, the climate of peace and the harmony that he has been able to install in the country; considering that this peace and this stability have given the Ivory Coast international prestige; considering that it was important for the pursuit of the harmonious development of the country and the blooming of the Ivorian man so that peace and stability may be maintained:

-- We strongly condemn the destabilizing actions of these cadres of higher education;

-- We strongly condemn the acts of vandalism undertaken by certain unthinking students;

-- We reaffirm our unflinching and faithful attachment to President Felix Houphouet-Boigny, president of Ivory Coast, supreme head of the army, duly elected by the Ivorian people in accordance with the Constitution;

-- We reaffirm that we cannot in any case tolerate disorder and the questioning of the institutions freely chosen by the sovereign people of the Ivory Coast. Let us warn all those, without exception, who would like to take advantage of the current difficult overall world economic order to attempt destabilization actions;

-- We proclaim solemnly to those who might not yet know that we will always be on the side of President Felix Houphouet-Boigny for the pursuit of the harmonious development of the Ivory Coast in an atmosphere of peace, brotherhood and stability. [end recording]

MEETING DISCUSSES UNIVERSITY DISTURBANCES

AB140929 Abidjan Domestic Service in French 0700 GMT 14 Feb 82

[Communique issued in Abidjan on 14 February following a joint meeting of the Political Bureau and the Steering Committee of the Democratic Party of the Ivory Coast]

[Excerpts] As earlier announced, the Political Bureau and the Steering Committee of the Democratic Party of the Ivory Coast-African Democratic Rally, met on Saturday, 13 February, at the presidential palace under the chairmanship of his Excellency, Felix Houphouet-Boigny, president and party chairman. This meeting also was attended by members of the government.

They resumed the analysis of the situation arising from the recent disturbances at the University of Abidjan, which everyone knows led to the closure of the university and the suspension of higher education scholarships. They also examined the disorder created in the capital, which was the direct consequence of the strike order given by the students and teachers in the higher education sector.

How did these circumstances come about? During the first week of February, Gbagbo Laurent sought permission to hold a conference on the theme "Youth and Politics" in one of the university amphitheaters. Permission was not granted in view of the authorities' ban on the holding of contradictory conferences on the university campus because of the serious incidents which took place at an earlier date during a debate which was organized by the same Gbagbo on the theme "Democracy Under a One-Party Government."

Having been given this refusal, Gbagbo Laurent decided to hold his conference at the Theatre de la Cite, but as this theater is part of a university establishment, the authorization could not be granted. To assure respect of this decision, which did not prevent Gbagbo Laurent from holding his meeting in any other public place in Abidjan, police were stationed at the entrance of the theater. When Gbagbo Laurent arrived at the theater, he was informed that the conference could not take place at the theater. It was then that certain students of the Club of Jurists, incited by certain leaders of the African Union for Research and Higher Education [SYNARES] went to the university campus and decided during the night to organize a demonstration in town the next day to protest what they considered to be a negation of their right to information.

Government authorities informed of this decision stationed police between the university and the town in order to prevent the disruption of public order.

The students, who were still excited by a false rumor that Gbagbo Laurent had been arrested because of his intention to hold his conference, violently attacked the university buildings and equipment and went to the extent of kidnapping the vice chancellor whom they intended releasing in exchange for Gbagbo Laurent. The latter, however, who had not been arrested, stayed away from the students after stating -- even after being invited to appear before them in order to stop the disturbances -- that it was not his duty to deny the false rumor concerning him.

Taking up its full responsibilities, the government, therefore, sent police to the university campus to stop the disorder and to release the vice chancellor whose life was probably in danger. The most violent students were arrested and sent to the Akouedo military camp. They were released the following day.

The agitators distributed tracts giving the impression that Gbagbo Laurent was arrested and calling for a general strike. The same students, to spread the protest, attempted to drag secondary school students into the strike by distributing tracts and sending them envoys. Faced with the proportion such an incident likely could take, the party Political Bureau and the Steering Committee decided to meet with the government members to examine the situation and to adopt measures aimed at restoring order at the university.

While this meeting was taking place, the SYNARES office sent a resolution to the Education Ministry, calling for a general and indefinite strike founded on the negation of trade union rights, the negation of rights to information and the violation of university principles. It was, therefore, the duty of the party and the government to take adequate measures in view of the disorder and the illegality of the situation.

That is why they decided on the closure of the university until further notice, suspension of scholarships for students of higher education, the banning of the SYNARES, which deliberately placed itself in an illegal situation by calling for a strike without using the normal procedure for the settlement of conflicts and by calling on other professional bodies to follow it in its movement.

These decisions are all the more justified as it is very obvious these demonstrations form part of a vast movement of destabilization of the most reliable governments in Africa, expertly prepared and orchestrated by the professional agents of destabilization living outside the Ivory Coast and who intend, above all, to paralyze the progress of our country.

Besides, a few days before this incident, an event took place which illustrates -- if need be -- this deliberate desire to create public disorder. In fact, Ladji Sidibe published two articles in FRATERNITE MATIN on a series of inquiries made on the university campus on the students' quality of work. The first article, which was on insufficient administrative services and incompetence of certain teachers, did not receive any reaction. The second article, which was on the personal work of the students and their examinations, made particular reference to the notorious tendency of some students to cheat on examinations. These facts were given by the students themselves and the journalist simply reported them. Reaction was immediate. Our students decided to march to the FRATERNITE MATIN offices. The police had to stop them and send them back to the university campus.

Are these facts linked to some discontent over the material and moral conditions of their studies? No, assuredly. Nothing justifies the behavior of the students and their lecturers. As for the levels of material benefits and of trade union rights and general working conditions, the party asserts without fear of contradiction that the students of the Ivory Coast and the teachers in the higher education sector constitute privileged categories in Ivorian society and, no doubt, are the most privileged students and teachers in the whole of Francophone black Africa.

In view of material and moral assistance given to the students and the teachers of the SYNARES, how can one understand their behavior? The only explanation is that the students have been manipulated by a handful of lecturers; always the same people that we know. These ill-intentioned lecturers know very well that this is the period of active preparation for examinations. They also know that the [words indistinct] that those students who have not worked hard do not expect to be successful and, therefore, will act as such to prevent the examinations from taking place. They wanted to hinder the success of others by sowing disorder. As for the lecturers, they receive their orders and directive from abroad. In effect, the chronological analysis of the different stages which have led to the present situation reveal a logical and premeditated sequence which should have ended with the result that they could not attain. It is an undertaking of destabilization.

Why did the SYNARES call for a general strike under the instigation of its ring leader, Mr Kipre? Because he felt the country was ripe for an uprising. He called for an uprising. When the party held a National Council meeting about 2 months ago, during which members of the SYNARES presented their grievances, nothing like the reasons for their present strike was presented to the National Council. The process being followed in the Ivory Coast is not an isolated one in Africa and it corresponds to the scheme which has been observed in many countries and which has had much success. To us in the Ivory Coast, we render homage to our security forces which were able to limit the disorder caused by this handful of apprentice sorcerers [words indistinct] wanted to exploit for unacknowledgeable political ends. These extremely serious acts call for increased vigilance on the part of the Democratic Party of Ivory Coast - African Democratic Rally.

That is why, to complete the measures already adopted and announced, the party's Steering Committee and the government, following the consequences of the illegal strike called for by the SYNARES for an unlimited period, have decided on: 1. The immediate suspension of allowances and salaries of all teachers in institutions of higher learning and 2. The continuation of investigations to (?determine) responsibility.

Other meetings will be held in the coming days to adopt subsequent measures necessitated by the situation.

LIBERIA

RELEASED STUDENT LEADERS PLEDGE COOPERATION

AB171708 Monrovia Radio EWA in English 1600 GMT 17 Feb 82

[Text] The six student leaders that were recently set free by the PRC [People's Redemption Council] government have said they will remain within their role as students and work cooperatively for the national government. Quoting the six student leaders in its issue of today, the DAILY OBSERVER newspaper said the students were thankful to God and to all the people of Liberia, particularly to the head of state, the administration of the University of Liberia and Cuttington University College, market women as well as their fellow students for the kind of solidarity and sympathy demonstrated on their behalf.

The students reportedly made this position clear over the weekend during a reunion program held in their honor on the campus of the University by the Cuttington University College in Suakoko, Bong County.

DOE ORDERS UNPAID TEACHERS TO REPORT TO POSTS

AB161010 Monrovia Radio ELWA in English 0625 GMT 16 Feb 82

[Text] Head of State CIC [Commander in Chief] Samuel K. Doe has ordered teachers who are employed by the Ministry of Education and have not been paid for January to report to their various posts of assignment or carry their genuine identification cards to the disbursing office at the Finance Ministry today to sign for their checks.

Head of State Doe gave the order in Monrovia yesterday on the grounds of the capitol building where about 600 teachers from Montserrado County and other parts of the country had converged to acquaint him with the delay in the payment of their January salary checks. He said the delay in the disbursement of salary checks to teachers was due to the strict measures being adopted by government to prevent fraudulent acts and other irregularities which had, in the past, caused an economic loss to government. CIC Doe then disclosed that the ministers of finance and education, in collaboration with the director of budget, have completed a new system through which salary checks will be issued to teachers throughout the country on time and without discrepancies.

OFFICIALS TO BE TRIED FOR MISUSE OF FUNDS

AB171156 Paris AFP in English 0921 GMT 17 Feb 82

[By James Dorbor]

[Text] Monrovia, 17 Feb (AFP) -- A check on government finances ordered two weeks ago by Liberian Head of State Samuel Doe to root out corruption has claimed its first victims.

The government's NEW LIBERIAN newspaper reported yesterday that Moses Duop, who was last week moved from the Labour Ministry to an advisory position with the ruling military council, was to be tried for alleged misuse of 62,000 dollars in labour union funds. And George Bolo, managing director of the National Social Security and Welfare Corporation, has been arrested and will be tried for alleged involvement in the misappropriation of 317,000 dollars at the corporation, the paper added.

Mr Doe ordered the finances of State House -- his own office -- and the Ministries of Finance, Education and Public Works to be audited, saying, "there are strong indications that corruption may exist anytime."

It is believed that the military council will order similar audits of all government agencies and public corporations before the end of the fiscal year in June.

Government auditors reported some two weeks ago that nearly 1.5 million dollars had been "misused" at the National Port Authority. Thirty-seven officials were named and ordered by Mr Doe to reconstitute the money or face trial. Port Managing Director Anthony Tarpeh, personally charged with the misuse of 88,000 dollars, was dismissed along with his deputy and controller. All were given 24 hours to repay the money they allegedly embezzled.

Mr Doe, 30, made a drive against corruption one of his main aims when, as an army sergeant, he seized power 22 months ago. A week after the military take-over he told jubilant crowds in the grounds of State House that anyone caught in corruption "would not live to tell the story."

Last September Mr Doe sacked Finance Minister George Dunye for complicity in a 235,000 dollar cheque racket, and since then other stories of corruption by government officials have appeared regularly in the press.

NIGERIA

SHAGARI RECEIVES BREZHNEV MESSAGE ON RELATIONS

AB162136 Lagos Domestic Service in English 2100 GMT 16 Feb 82

[Text] Today, the president received a special message from the Soviet president, Mr Brezhnev, on relations between Nigeria and the Soviet Union.

BULGARIA OFFERS 200 STEEL INDUSTRY SCHOLARSHIPS

AB162157 Lagos Domestic Service in English 2100 GMT 16 Feb 82

[Text] The Bulgarian Government has offered 200 scholarships for Nigerians to train in various aspects of the steel industry. The minister in charge of steel development, Malam Mama Ali Mememe, disclosed this today in Lagos, when the Bulgarian ambassador to Nigeria, Mr Aleksandr Atanasov, paid him a courtesy visit. Malam Mama said the scholarships could be utilized for on-the-job training, technical courses in institutions or specialized courses. The ambassador said it was the wish of the government to reinforce the friendly relations between Nigeria and Bulgaria.

TOGO

COOPERATION AGREEMENT WITH USSR SIGNED 11 FEB

AB120917 Lome Domestic Service in French 1900 GMT 11 Feb 82

[Text] A protocol agreement for cultural and scientific cooperation between the Soviet Union and Togo was signed this morning at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation.

The agreement, which covers the 1981-82 period, commits the two parties to develop their cooperation in science and staff training. It also includes cooperation in public health, information, youth and sports and arts and culture.

The document was signed for Togo by Kpotivi Lacle, member of the Political Bureau and minister of interior, who was acting for the minister of foreign affairs and cooperation. Soviet Ambassador to Togo Ivan Ilyukhin signed for his country.

At the end of the ceremony, the interior minister and the Soviet ambassador expressed happiness about the excellent relations between their two countries. They also expressed their conviction that this cooperation agreement will help strengthen these relations for the well-being of their two peoples. They stressed particularly the friendly ties between Leonid Brezhnev, chairman of the Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet, and Gen Gnassingbe Eyadema, founding chairman of the Togolese People's Rally and president of the republic. Both statesmen aspire for the development and strengthening of the friendship and cooperation between the Soviet Union and Togo in the interests of world peace.

The interior minister asked the Soviet ambassador to kindly convey the gratitude of the Togolese Government to the Soviet Government for its assistance in the cultural and scientific fields.

LIBYAN JOURNALISTS VISIT, FILM KPALIME

AB172012 Lome Domestic Service in French 1900 GMT 17 Feb 82

[Text] Within the framework of the friendly relations between Togo and Libya, a team of journalists from the Libyan television service visited Kpalime last Monday. It was welcomed on arrival by Kuomivi Akado, regional commissioner of the Togolese People's Rally and prefect of Klossou, who later gave a luncheon in honor of the delegation.

During this luncheon, Adado praised the friendship and cooperation between Colonel al-Qadhafi and President Eyadema and between our two countries.

During their visit to Kpalime, the journalists filmed the Kpime River waterfall and dam, the town's mosque, some cultural groups of the region and the agricultural station of the French Coffee and Cocoa Institute.

UPPER VOLTA

ORDINANCE LIFTS BAN ON FREEDOM TO STRIKE

AB151516 Abidjan FRATERNITE MATIN in French 15 Feb 82 p 30

[Text] The ban on the freedom to strike, in force in Upper Volta since 1 November 1981, was lifted yesterday by an ordinance by Col Saye Zerbo, chairman of the Military Committee of Redress for National Progress and head of state.

The presidential ordinance also defines the guidelines for the settlement of labor disputes in Upper Volta.

If the clauses of the ordinance are accepted by Upper Volta's trade unions, the military committee will achieve an important step in the long and difficult attempt to provide the country with a labor contract, announced in November 1980 when Col Saye Zerbo came to power.

The ordinance, which stresses that the freedom to strike can only be exercised within the framework of legitimate collective interests, also lists the state services and corporations whose employees cannot strike, particularly magistrates, general secretaries and directors of public and semipublic services, the army, the police, penitentiary institutions and the customs service.

Lastly, the ordinance makes clear that any trade union asking for an illegal strike or for the continuation of an illegal strike despite warnings can be banned.

ANGOLAMPLA-LABOR PARTY, CUBANS ISSUE JOINT COMMUNIQUE

AB122142 Luanda ANGOP in Portuguese 1930 GMT 11 Feb 82

[Text] Luanda, 11 Feb (ANGOP) -- At the end of the visit to the People's Republic of Angola of a party and government delegation headed by Jorge Risquet, member of the Politburo and secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Cuba [PCC], the following joint communique was issued in the Angolan capital.

Joint Communique by the MPLA-Labor Party and the Communist Party of Cuba

At the invitation of the MPLA-Labor Party Central Committee, a high-ranking party-government delegation led by Jorge Risquet, member of the Politburo of the PCC Central Committee, paid an official and friendly visit to the People's Republic of Angola from 3 to 7 February 1982.

During the visit, Comrade Jorge Risquet and the delegation accompanying him held a friendly meeting with Comrade Jose Eduardo dos Santos, chairman of the MPLA-Labor Party and president of the People's Republic of Angola, during which the Cuban delegation transmitted to Comrade President Jose Eduardo dos Santos warm greetings from Comrade Fidel Castro, first secretary of the PCC Central Committee and president of the State Council and Council of Ministers of the Republic of Cuba.

The meeting between Comrade President Jose Eduardo dos Santos, chairman of the MPLA-Labor Party and president of the People's Republic of Angola, and the party and government delegation led by Jorge Risquet, was held in a spirit of comradeship and great militancy because of their identical views and the understanding which characterizes the ties between the two parties and governments which were forged through the struggle for the same ideals.

Present at the talks on the Angolan side were: Comrade Lucio Lara, member of the Politburo of the MPLA-Labor Party Central Committee and secretary of the Central Committee for organization; Comrade Pedro Maria Tonha Pedale, member of the Politburo and minister of defense; Comrade Afonso van Dunem, member of the Central Committee and secretary of the Central Committee for foreign affairs; Comrade Lopo Ferreira do Nascimento, member of the Central Committee, minister of planning and foreign trade; Comrade Mwaete Baptista, ambassador of the People's Republic of Angola to Cuba; and Comrade Bengui Pedro Joao, member of the (?South) American section.

Those who took part on the Cuban side were: Comrade Jorge Risquet, member of the Politburo and the Secretariat of the PCC Central Committee; Comrade Abelando Colome Ibarra, alternate member of the Politburo of the Central Committee, first deputy of the minister of the revolutionary armed forces of Cuba and lieutenant general; Comrade Carlos Albana Escalante, member of the PCC Central Committee; Comrade Oscar Oramas Oliva, vice minister of foreign affairs; Comrade Neuryshyernier Cepsar, member of the General Foreign Affairs Department of the PCC Central Committee; and Comrade Rafael Francia Mestre, Cuban ambassador to the People's Republic of Angola.

The Cuban delegation, led by Comrade Jorge Risquet, also held talks with a delegation of the MPLA-Labor Party and the Government of the People's Republic of Angola headed by Comrade Lucio Lara, member of the Political Bureau of the MPLA-Labor Party Central Committee, during which there was an indepth and comprehensive exchange of views and information on the economic, political and social accomplishments of the two countries, which are committed to the struggle against economic underdevelopment and to the building of socialism.

The two delegations further examined the fundamental aspects of the present international situation and the development of the national liberation struggle for social progress and for socialism in Africa and Latin America.

Comrade Jorge Risquet and the members of his delegation laid a wreath at the tomb of the late Comrade President Dr Antonio Agostinho Neto, immortal guide of the Angolan revolution, founder of the nation and of the MPLA-Labor Party, symbol of the most precious traditions of the struggle of the Angolan people, which are embodied in Comrade President Jose Eduardo dos Santos, his faithful successor.

The Cuban delegation headed by Comrade Jorge Risquet also laid a wreath at the Alto das Cruzes cemetery in memory of the Cuban internationalist fighters who lost their lives in the People's Republic of Angola.

The Cuban delegation underlined the historical importance of the Angolan revolution to the international revolutionary movement and especially the incentive it constitutes for the African peoples fighting against the last bastions of colonialism and racism in the African Continent.

The Cuban delegation, viewing the guidelines of the first extraordinary congress of the MPLA-Labor Party, expressed its satisfaction with the successes scored by the Angolan people in consolidating their revolutionary power and reaffirmed its conviction that the People's Republic of Angola will score further and greater successes in building the physical and technical bases of scientific socialism in Angola.

The Cuban side expressed the firm and unwavering support of the PCC and the Government of the Republic of Cuba for the Angolan people, the MPLA-Labor Party and the Government of the People's Republic of Angola in its fearless struggle for the consolidation of revolutionary gains and for the defense of its sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity.

The two delegations expressed their satisfaction that this communique coincides with the 21st anniversary of the beginning of the armed struggle launched by the MPLA on 4 February 1961 to free the political prisoners from the prisons of Luanda and Catete.

The two parties agreed Angola-Cuban relations are consonant with the interests and aspirations of both peoples and they should be maintained and subsequently increased. In this regard, they emphasized the role the intergovernmental body should play by cooperating to attain these objectives.

The Angolan side expressed its deepest gratitude and appreciation for the contribution of the Cuban internationalist troops who, at the request of their government and the eternal guide, the late Comrade Agostinho Neto, came to the People's Republic of Angola to cooperate with the People's Armed Forces for the Liberation of Angola (FAPLA) in defense of the territorial integrity and sovereignty of the People's Republic of Angola, threatened and attacked by the South African racists, the spearhead of imperialism and its puppets.

In this context, both delegations reiterated the joint statement signed on 4 February by the Angolan and Cuban foreign ministers on the presence of Cuban internationalist troops in the People's Republic of Angola.

The Angolan delegation hailed the Cubans who, inspired by the heroic tradition of patriotic revolutionary struggle, by the ideals of Jose Marti and by the doctrine of scientific socialism, have firmly embarked on building a socialist society and are implementing under conditions rendered difficult by U.S. imperialism the resolutions of the Second PCC Congress under the leadership of Comrade Fidel Castro Ruz, PCC first secretary.

The Angolan delegation underscored the fact that all the threats and pressures unleashed by the present U.S. administration as well as all the anti-Cuban campaigns are, as in the past, doomed to failure in the face of the firm decision of the Cuban people to defend their independence and sovereignty and their determination to build socialism. The Angolan side vehemently condemned the criminal boycott imposed by the U.S. Government against the Cuban people, which has now lasted more than 2 decades. In this context, it renewed its support for the just demands of the Cuban people and government for the unconditional return of the territory of the Guantanamo naval base, which is illegally occupied by the United States.

Analyzing the international situation, the two sides shared identical views regarding imperialism's responsibility for the exacerbation of tension and the dangers threatening world peace. Angola and Cuba consider that the grave and insoluble consequences of the world capitalist system have caused the economic and social injustices of our planet, which constitute the basic problems facing humanity and which can be solved once and for all only through the establishment of a new, just and equitable international economic order capable of promoting the full development of peoples and gradually reducing the gap between nations.

The two delegations adopted an unequivocal and resolute stand against the actions taken by imperialism which hopes to counter people's liberation struggles and the growing influence of socialism throughout the world with a policy of force and blackmail including a frantic arms race, interference in the internal affairs of others, support for reactionaries and counterrevolutionaries and attempts to promote disunity among the liberation movements and the progressive and revolutionary states.

The two sides believe the legitimate aspirations of the peoples and countries for total emancipation constitute a major characteristic of our times and they are facing growing resistance from the forces of imperialism, colonialism, neocolonialism, Zionism, racism and apartheid, which are endeavoring to perpetuate the inequalities and maintain the privileges obtained by force. In this regard, the two delegations hailed the growing forces supporting the peace policy of the Soviet Union and other socialist countries and the growing importance of the states recently liberated from colonial domination in the strengthening of national liberation movements and the world communist movement.

The MPLA-Labor Party and the PCC reiterated their support for the peace program laid down by the 26th CPSU Congress and hailed the initiatives of the Soviet Government to promote detente and the negotiated settlement of international conflicts and cooperation among nations. In this context, they noted that the USSR peace policy constitutes a decisive and effective contribution to the national liberation struggle, justice, social progress and socialism.

The two delegations hailed the strong mass movements in Europe, which call for peace and an end to the arms race and for disarmament and cooperation among peoples.

The Cuban delegation strongly condemned the aggression that the racist apartheid regime is systematically committing against the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the People's Republic of Angola, as evidenced by the case of the criminal sabotage of the Luanda refinery, and reiterated its active solidarity with the Angolan people, while calling for the immediate withdrawal of the South African troops which occupy a part of the fatherland.

Angola and Cuba vigorously condemned the material and political support U.S. imperialism grants through South Africa to counterrevolutionary organizations.

The two parties considered that the support given by the Reagan administration to the racist Pretoria regime to destabilize progressive African governments has not achieved its evil objectives.

The two sides also strongly condemned the aggression perpetrated by a group of mercenaries, agents of the Pretoria racist, against the Republic of Seychelles with the aim of overthrowing the government of that country, which is led by Comrade Albert Rene, thus causing [words indistinct] in the Indian Ocean and denounced the maneuvers and pressure brought to bear by imperialism against the Government of Madagascar.

Angola and Cuba considered that collaboration by Western powers headed by the United States facilitates the maintenance of the criminal policy of racist oppression practiced by the heinous apartheid regime in South Africa and Namibia. [Words indistinct] They restated their firm and total support for SWAPO and the ANC, the sole legitimate representatives of the people of Namibia and South Africa.

The two sides condemned the maneuvers by the Pretoria regime which, with the complicity of the imperialist powers, is hindering the application of the UN resolutions, particularly UN Security Council Resolution 435, with a view to imposing a neocolonialist solution on Namibia that will thwart the legitimate aspirations of the Namibian people and preserve imperialist interests in the region.

The MPLA-Labor Party and the PCC reaffirm that the true settlement of the Namibian problem entails the strict implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 435, which would bring about a truly independent government and the total withdrawal of South African occupation troops behind the Orange River.

The Angola and Cuba delegations firmly condemned the cooperation that exists between U.S. imperialism, NATO and the racist South Africans in the military field and called attention to the threat to peace represented by the possession of nuclear arms by the Pretoria regime.

The MPLA-Labor Party and the PCC expressed their full support for the people, Frelimo and the Government of Mozambique headed by President Samora Machel in their just struggle for [words indistinct].

The two parties expressed their firm solidarity with all the frontline countries who are victims of constant aggression and all forms of pressure from the racist Pretoria regime. [words indistinct]

The Angolan and Cuban delegations reaffirmed their support for the Polisario Front and the Government of the SDAR in their just struggle for the exercise of their right to self-determination and independence. They condemned the delaying tactics of the Kingdom of Morocco which, disregarding the resolution adopted on the Sahara at the last summit of OAU heads of state and government in Nairobi, intends to perpetuate its occupation, oppression and exploitation of the Saharan people. They reiterated their adherence to the resolutions of the OAU, United Nations and the Nonaligned Movement supporting the legitimate rights of the people of Western Sahara.

Angola and Cuba reaffirmed their solidarity with the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyyah and condemned imperialism's threats and pressures against that country as well as its campaign of lies with which it hopes to isolate Libya because of its firm anti-imperialist stands.

The two sides expressed their concern over the tension prevailing in Chad, created by the imperialists who are preventing the Chadian Transitional National Union Government from achieving the peace and complete stability needed to ensure the process of national reconstruction. This tension tends to disturb the [words indistinct] of the states of the region, thus aggravating the atmosphere, creating insecurity and threatening peace in the region.

Angola and Cuba hailed the revolutionary achievements of the heroic people of Ethiopia under the leadership of Comrade Mengistu Haile Mariam and condemned the maneuvers and threats by the reactionaries and imperialists who continue to fight against the establishment of peace in the Horn of Africa, thwarting the interests of the African peoples and violating the principles that govern relations among the OAU member countries.

The two sides stressed the importance of the role played by the OAU in supporting the struggle of the peoples of Africa, in strengthening the international position of the African countries and in the totally eradicating colonialism, neocolonialism, racism and apartheid from the African Continent.

The Angolan and Cuban delegations called for a just and comprehensive solution to the Middle East problem with the Palestinian question as the fundamental aspect, recognizing the PLO as the sole legitimate representative. In this context, they considered as legitimate the right of the Arab people of Palestine to return to their homeland, to have their own independent state and to participate, on an equal footing, in talks involving all parties to the conflict.

The two sides condemned the Camp David accords and the systematic Israeli aggression against the Arab peoples, especially the bombing of the At-Tamuz reactor in Iraq and the annexation of the Golan Heights, which is the most recent example of the flagrant violation of all the principles and rules of international law. These Israeli actions are supported and encouraged by international imperialism.

The two parties support the struggle of the people of East Timor for the exercise of their right to self-determination and independence.

The two sides expressed support for the Government and people of the People's Democratic Republic of Afghanistan in their just struggle in defense of the accomplishments of the April revolution and their conviction that the only way to a political solution of the situation created in Afghanistan is to cease all interference in the affairs of this nonaligned state, cut off support to the counterrevolutionaries and use as a basis for negotiation the proposals submitted by the Afghan Government.

The MPLA-Labor Party and the PCC delegations condemned the acts of aggression and violation of the sovereignty and independence of the peoples of Indochina and reaffirmed their total support for the people of Vietnam, Laos and Kampuchea, who wish to transform Southeast Asia into a zone of peace, friendship and cooperation. They reaffirmed their stand that the problems concerning Kampuchea can only be solved by the people of Kampuchea themselves and by the People's Republic of Kampuchea, which is the sole legitimate representative of their people at the United Nations and other international bodies.

The two sides reiterated their solidarity with the DPRK in its just struggle for the peaceful reunification of its territory without outside interference and condemned the continued provocation of U.S. imperialism from South Korea.

Analyzing the situation in Latin America, the delegations expressed their full agreement with the development and crystalization of revolutionary political changes.

The Angolan and Cuban delegations, analyzing the situation in Central America, and the Caribbean, agreed that the aggressive policy of the U.S. administration represents the main threat to peace in Central America, while expressing their concern over the threat of aggression looming over the valiant people of Nicaragua and Grenada, who require greater support and international solidarity.

The two parties hailed the recognition, by the Governments of France and Mexico, of the representatives of the Salvadoran patriots struggling for the survival of their people and their fatherland and who do not exclude a negotiated political solution which respects the sovereignty of El Salvador, the right of its heroic people to live and their right to justice. They condemned the electoral farce prepared by the fascist junta governing the country, considering that the necessary conditions for a just and democratic electoral process have not been fulfilled.

The two sides expressed their support for the people of Panama in their struggle involving the canal agreement and the people of Puerto Rico subjected to the shameful colonization of the United States and expressed their support for the struggle against the colonial domination of the United States and for their national independence. [passage indistinct]

[Luanda Domestic Service in Portuguese at 0500 GMT on 12 February broadcasts a report on the above joint communique, which includes the following concluding passages:

["Angola and Cuba condemned imperialism's brazen interference in Poland's internal affairs. They expressed their confidence that the communists and other patriotic forces of the Polish people will find an internal solution to their own problems in the interest of the Polish nation, social progress and socialism.

["The Angolan side expressed its recognition of and support for the untiring efforts of the current chairman of the nonaligned countries, Comrade Fidel Castro, to safeguard and strengthen the movement's unity. Both sides reiterated their wish to contribute toward the successful holding of the seventh conference of the heads of state and government of the nonaligned countries to be held in Baghdad in September this year.

["The Angolan and Cuban delegations expressed their great satisfaction with the results of the visit, considering that the talks and agreements concluded are an important step toward developing the fraternal relations existing between the Angolan and Cuban Governments and the fruitful cooperation between the two fraternal countries, concludes the communique issued in Luanda today at the end of talks held in our capital between the Angolan and Cuban delegations chaired by Comrade Lucio Lara, member of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the MPLA-Labor Party and organizing secretary, and by Comrade Jorge Risquet, member of the Politburo and the Secretariat of the PCC Central Committee."]

DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS ESTABLISHED WITH SENEGAL

AB171141 Luanda Domestic Service in French 1100 GMT 17 Feb 82

[Text] The People's Republic of Angola and Senegal yesterday decided to establish diplomatic relations at the ambassadorial level. In a communique published yesterday in Luanda and Dakar, the two countries expressed their desire to promote the bonds of friendship and cooperation, thus contributing to the accomplishment of OAU objectives.

"Conscious of the historic role people should play in bringing together all freedom and peace-loving countries, Angola and Senegal have decided to establish between their two governments diplomatic relations at ambassadorial level beginning 16 February 1982," the communique stated. "The two countries," adds the communique, "have in this regard decided to base their relations on the principles and objectives of the OAU and UN charters, as well as the principles of the Nonaligned Movement, particularly the respect of sovereignty, territorial integrity and noninterference in the internal affairs of each state."

Angola and Senegal also agreed to always continue with the action undertaken by other African countries in establishing a more just and balanced world economic order for the consolidation and the participation of efforts undertaken for the maintenance of international peace and security.

JORGE DESCRIBES 1-WEEK VISIT TO BRAZIL

AB171220 Luanda Domestic Service in French 1100 GMT 17 Feb 82

[Text] Angolan External Relations Minister, Paulo Jorge returned to Luanda yesterday from Brasilia at the end of his 1-week official visit to the Federative Republic of Brazil at the invitation of his Brazilian counterpart, Saraiva Guerreiro.

On his arrival, the head of the Angolan foreign service described his talks with Brazilian officials as fruitful. He said the talks took place in an atmosphere of frank understanding and cordiality between the delegations of the two countries.

Paulo Jorge discussed with Brazilian authorities the international situation marked by pockets of tension in the world, especially in southern Africa, Western Sahara and East Timor. In a joint communique issued at the end of the visit, Angola and Brazil once again denounced the illegal occupation of Namibia by the South African racist regime as they did in 1980 during the visit to Angola of Saraiva Guerreiro, Brazilian foreign minister.

During its stay in Brazil, the Angolan delegation was received by the Brazilian president, Joao Baptista Figueiredo, to whom it delivered a personal message from the Angolan head of state, Comrade Jose dos Santos.

MOZAMBIQUE

MACHEL, NYERERE MEET IN NAMPULA TO DISCUSS TIES

EA122146 Dar es Salaam in English to East Africa 1800 GMT 12 Feb 82

[Text] Presidents Nyerere and Samora Machel of Mozambique today discussed in concrete terms ways and means to reinforce friendly and fraternal relations between Tanzania and Mozambique both at party and government levels. The two leaders also agreed to reinforce economic relations and consolidate their political ties. They had an extensive exchange of views on economic situations between the two countries.

They also discussed matters pertaining to developments in southern Africa with particular emphasis on the events in Namibia and the continued acts of aggression and harassment committed by the South African racist regime against frontline states. They also agreed, as a way of reinforcing their fraternal links, to have regular consultations at summit and other levels.

At the Nampula summit, Mwalimu was accompanied by the minister of foreign affairs, Ndugu Salim Ahmad Salim, minister without portfolio, Ndugu Rashid Kawawa; Tanzania's ambassador to Mozambique, Ndugu Charles Kileo; and the director for Africa and Middle East in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ndugu (Joshua Oponga); and other government officials.

President Machel was accompanied by minister for foreign affairs, Ndugu Chissand; the governor of Nampula; and the director in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ndugu (Musave).

Machel Returns to Maputo

EA122148 Maputo Domestic Service in Portuguese 1900 GMT 12 Feb 82

[Text] President Samora Machel returned to Maputo early this evening from Nampula, where he held talks with his Tanzanian counterpart, Julius Nyerere.

In the talks, the presidents concluded that the two countries' cooperation in the economic and military fields was fruitful and that [words indistinct] laid down by the two countries were being satisfactorily fulfilled.

The two presidents also analysed the (?actions of reactionary forces) in their countries and noted that they acted in different ways in the two countries. It was also noted that with military cooperation between the two countries these forces would be [words indistinct]. Samora Machel and Julius Nyerere also analyzed the international political situation, particularly in southern Africa, and that the situation [words indistinct].

CAPE VERDE PRESIDENT ARRIVES FOR TALKS

EA142156 Maputo Domestic Service in Portuguese 1700 GMT 14 Feb 82

[Text] Aristides Pereira, secretary of the African Party for the Independence of Cape Verde and president of the Republic of Cape Verde, arrived in Maputo this afternoon for a working visit. He was received at Mavalane international airport by President Samora Machel, members of the Frelimo Permanent Commission and the People's Assembly Permanent Commission, and members of the Council of Ministers.

The Cape Verde delegation includes Minister of Foreign Affairs Silvano da Luz; Minister of Health and Social Affairs Ireneu Gomes; Cape Verde ambassador to Mozambique, resident in Luanda, Joaquim Silva; and other officials.

During this 2-day visit, talks will be held between the two countries' government delegations.

Talks End 15 Feb

EA161216 Maputo Domestic Service in Portuguese 1400 GMT 15 Feb 82

[Text] Talks between the People's Republic of Mozambique and the Republic of Cape Verde ended in Maputo this afternoon. The delegations at the talks were led by Presidents Samora Machel and Aristides Pereira. The Mozambique delegation also included Marcelino dos Santos, Frelimo Central Committee secretary for economic affairs, and Foreign Minister Joaquim Chissano. The Cape Verde delegation included Foreign Minister Silvino da Luz and other officials.

The Cape Verde minister of health and social affairs, Ireneu Gomes, this morning visited the central hospital, water, hygiene and food laboratory and the health center in Alto Mahe. Following these visits, the Cape Verde minister told national newsmen that though his visit to the centers was brief, he noticed tangible progress in the health field in Mozambique. He said this visit is the beginning of cooperation between the two countries in the health field.

Pereira Leaves for Zambia

EA161218 Maputo Domestic Service in Portuguese 0800 GMT 16 Feb 82

[Excerpt] The secretary general of the African Party for the Independence of Cape Verde and president of the republic of Cape Verde, Aristides Pereira, left Maputo for Zambia this morning at the end of his working visit to Mozambique. He was seen off at Maputo international airport by President Samora Machel, members of the Frelimo leadership and the government and residents of the capital.

SDAR FOREIGN MINISTER EXPLAINS NAIROBI MEETING

EA161200 Maputo Domestic Service in Portuguese 1030 GMT 16 Feb 82

[Text] President Samora Machel yesterday received Saharan Democratic Arab Republic Foreign Minister Hakim Ibrahim in the capital. Hakim Ibrahim took part in the OAU meeting on Western Shara in Kenya recently.

Greeting the Saharan Democratic Arab Republic foreign minister, the Mozambique head of state said the Polisario Front delegation which attended the meeting had fought a hard battle.

After the meeting with President Machel, the Saharan foreign minister told NOTICIAS newspaper that Polisario had expected the recent Nairobi meeting on Sahara to be the forum where negotiations would begin between the Polisario Front and Morocco. Nothing of the sort took place. To us, there was no evolution whatever at this meeting and there was no change from the one held in August last year, stressed Hakim Ibrahim.

The Saharan official came to Mozambique to report to the Mozambique Government on the results of the Nairobi meeting.

SOUTH AFRICA

BOTHA: RSA 'CONSIDERING' NONPROLIFERATION TREATY

LD181030 Johannesburg International Service in English 0400 GMT 18 Feb 82

[Text] The South African minister of foreign affairs, Mr Roelof Botha, says South Africa is considering signing the nuclear nonproliferation treaty, but no decision has been reached. Asked in Parliament whether any approaches had been made to South Africa to sign the treaty since January last year, Mr Botha said that Western governments had made inquiries from time to time.

Also speaking in the assembly in Cape Town, the minister of mineral and energy affairs, Mr F.W. de Klerk, said no additional nuclear power stations were being considered for South Africa at present but, in view of the National Electricity Supply Commission's load forecast, construction of others could not be ruled out. Mr de Klerk said before any decision could be taken on any new nuclear power plans, all relevant aspects would have to be thoroughly investigated.

ZIMBABWE

PRIME MINISTER DISMISSES NKOMO, OTHER MINISTERS

CA171848 Salisbury Domestic Service in English 1745 GMT 17 Feb 82

[Text] The prime minister, Comrade Mugabe, today announced the dismissal from the government of four ZAPU Cabinet ministers. He told a news conference in Salisbury this evening that Comrade Joshua Nkomo, former minister without portfolio, Comrade Chinamano, who held the transport post, Comrade Msika, who held the portfolios of natural resources and water development, and Comrade Ntuta, who was deputy minister of mines, have been sacked. The dismissals, which the prime minister described as a political decision, follow recent discoveries of large quantities of arms on properties owned by ZAPU. The dismissed personalities were directors of most of the properties.

Comrade Mugabe who outlined to newsmen some of the activities of Comrade Nkomo, who is also president of ZAPU, said soon after independence Comrade Nkomo held several meetings with officials of the Pretoria regime at which plans to topple his government were discussed. He said the new law will have to take its course against those who have been involved in the arms racket.

Comrade Mugabe has announced several Cabinet changes. He brought back the minister of health, Comrade Ushewokunze, to take the portfolio of minister of home affairs. Comrade Hove, who has held the Home Affairs Ministry, has (?left for) the Ministry of Trade and Commerce which was left vacant when Mr David Smith resigned from the government. The Ministry of Finance has been combined with that of economic planning and development and will be headed by Comrade Chidzero.

Comrade Nkala, who held the Ministry of Finance, now heads the new Ministry of National Supplies. Comrade Zvobgo now heads another new Ministry of Legal and Parliamentary Affairs. His deputy, Comrade Chikowore, now takes over as minister of local government and housing. The new entry in the Cabinet is Comrade Masango, Zimbabwe's high commissioner to Tanzania. He will now head the Ministry of Transport left vacant by the dismissal of Comrade Chinamano. The former deputy minister of finance, Comrade Munyaradzi, is now minister of health. Comrade Sekeramayi, who acted as minister of health, has become the second minister of state in the Prime Minister's Office. Comrade Mahachi has now been promoted to minister of land, resettlement and rural development, which Comrade Sekeramayi held. Former deputy minister of foreign affairs, Comrade Mumbengegwi, now heads the new Ministry of Water Resources and Development. Comrade Victoria Chitepo has also been promoted to head the Ministry of Natural Resources which now combine tourism.

The prime minister made it very clear that his government and party will not victimize anybody. He said those ZAPU Cabinet ministers whom he dismissed from the government need not fear. The same applies to all other ZAPU officials, including those in the army. The Ministry of Information under Comrade Shamuyarira has been combined with posts and telecommunications. Other ministries will remain the same.

ZAPU-PF DEPUTY MINISTER 'WILL NOT RESIGN'

CA181034 Salisbury Domestic Service in English 1000 GMT 18 Feb 82

[Text] The deputy minister of manpower planning development, Comrade Msipa, has said he will not resign from his government position. Comrade Msipa is one of the four ZAPU-PF ministers and deputy ministers who were not implicated in the party's leadership plot to overthrow the Zimbabwe Government. In an interview with ZIANA last night, Comrade Msipa said my country comes first, (?without) his even consulting his party to consider his position in the government.

WORKERS STAGE DEMONSTRATION AGAINST ZAPU

CA180748 Salisbury Domestic Service in English 0600 GMT 18 Feb 82

[Text] About 200 workers from several unions demonstrated outside the Zimbabwe Congress of Trade Unions, ZCTU, offices in Salisbury last night in protest against ZAPU and its leader, Mr Joshua Nkomo. The workers were singing and chanting ZANU-PF slogans while waving placards, some of which read "Down with Nkomo, Down with ZAPU", "Nkomo, why hide arms when Zimbabwe is free." In an interview with the ZBC at the scene, the president of the ZCTU, Comrade Makwarimba, said the workers were demonstrating peacefully to show Mr Nkomo, how concerned they are about ZAPU's plans to overthrow the workers' government. Comrade Makwarimba said the government is the workers' government and that if ZAPU wants to overthrow the government they also want to oppose the wishes of the workers. He urged the government to take stern measures against ZAPU and its leader in particular.